

Annex No 2

to Decision of the Government
of the Republic of Armenia
No 2045-L of 19 December 2024

Annex No 2

to Decision of the Government
of the Republic of Armenia
No 1902-L of 18 November 2021

RATIONALE

FOR ACTIONS ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2021-2026 ACTION PLAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	
NN	RATIONALE
1	<p><u>1.1. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2022-2026 Strategy of the sector of labour and social protection" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>It is necessary to develop a strategy of the sector of labour and social protection for the coming 5 years to establish the main priorities of the state policy conducted in the sector of labour and social protection, increase the effectiveness of management of the sector, including to interlink the</p>

	<p>policies conducted in different fields of the sector of social protection. The necessity for development of this Action derives from the requirements of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In light of reforms carried out in different fields of labour and social protection, considering also the fact that around 30 per cent of expenditures of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia is geared down to the sector of social protection, the vision for the coming years in the sector of state protection, <i>i.e.</i> the issue of availability of one unified strategy is relevant, which will, at the same time, be in line with main directions of the policies conducted in social and economic and other sectors of the country.</p> <p>For the purpose of more effective implementation of policies conducted in different fields of the sector of labour and social protection it is necessary also to ensure their interrelation, excluding repetitions of the services provided and ensuring their addressability and quality.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The strategy will stipulate main priorities, objectives, key reforms and policy tools required for the achievement thereof, as well as existing barriers to and main risks for the development of the sector of social protection for 2022-2026.</p> <p>The strategy will not include details regarding separate fields of social protection, but will provide sufficient benchmarks in the fields of demography, employment and occupation, pension security, social support, as well as for general guidance when drawing up programmes related to issues of persons with disabilities, women and children, elderly.</p> <p>2. Expected outcomes from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of research and analyses conducted in relation to the sector of labour and social protection, which will allow developing and improving the policy conducted in the sector. A working group will be established, which will draw up the main priorities, targets, measures and resources for the achievement thereof, required key reforms and policy tools, as well as barriers to and main risks for the development of the sector of social protection for 5 years, <i>i.e.</i> for 2022-2026.</p>
2	<p><u>2.1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which has provided that for the purpose of exercising the right to decent work, the mechanisms for regulation of employment relations will be simplified and improved, bringing them into compliance with the requirements of the international commitments assumed by the</p>

Republic of Armenia. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution serve as a ground for the Action.

The objective of the Action is envisaging regulations for bringing certain provisions of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the requirements stipulated by international agreements (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the Revised European Social Charter), clarifying the provisions that are not clear or give rise to different perceptions, as well as setting specific guarantees for certain groups in case of rescission of an employment contract, extending the rights of employees having children, developing the professional skills and promoting productivity of employees.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Law HO-96-N "On making supplements and amendments to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia" adopted on 22 June 2015 made quite a large number of amendments to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, the majority of which related to the process of bringing the provisions of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the norms of the international law, including also the provisions of the Revised European Social Charter and ILO conventions. The adoption of the Law was conditioned also by the need to resolve the issues having arisen in the course of implementation of certain provisions of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia.

Given the need to continuously improve and develop the existing regulations by the labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia, envisaging more flexible mechanisms for the regulation of employment relations, as well as to bring the requirements of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with specific provisions of international agreements (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and Revised European Social Charter) ratified by the Republic of Armenia in the field of regulation of employment relations, a draft providing for amendments to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia should be elaborated.

In particular, it is necessary to provide that the regulations concerning social partnership, collective agreements, the role of trade unions, strikes, annual leaves, conclusion and content of an employment contract, child employment, as well as many other regulations of employment relations are brought into compliance with the requirements of international agreements ratified by the Republic of Armenia (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and Revised European Social Charter), and offer solutions to issues having arisen in the law enforcement practice.

At the same time, based on the objective necessity, specific guarantees for certain groups should be established in case of rescission of the employment contract.

In addition, for the purpose of improving employee-employer relations, simplifying the regulations of employment relations is also a must.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the framework of the Action, the analysis and identification of cases of non-compliance of the provisions of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia with the requirements of international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia in the field of regulation of employment relations (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and Revised European Social Charter), analysis of the issues having arisen in the law enforcement practice will result in elaborating a draft envisaging amendments to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, which will provide that

the regulations concerning the social partnership, collective agreements, the role of trade unions, the strike, annual leaves, the content of the employment contract, as well as many other regulations of the employment relations are brought into compliance with the requirements of international agreements ratified by the Republic of Armenia, clarifying the provisions of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, which give rise to unclear or different perceptions in the law enforcement practice, establishing the preferential right to remain in employment for certain groups (a former military servant entitled to military pension for disability, as well as a family member of the recipient of the military pension for the 1st degree of disability or a fallen (deceased) military servant (spouse, child, father, mother, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather)) in case of reduction of the number of employees and/or staff cuts, as well as envisaging regulations aimed at extending the rights of employees having children, developing professional skills and promoting productivity of employees.

The Ministry of Economy is indicated as an action co-implementing body. The action co-implementing body is expected to hold — in the course of performance of envisaged works — joint discussions throughout the performance of works, as well as to summarise the opinion on the final draft before the document is submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The regulations of the labour legislation, particularly those concerning the social partnership and collective agreements (clarifying the procedures for conducting collective negotiations, attaching importance to the role of the institute of social partnership), the role of trade unions (reviewing the powers of trade unions for the purpose of enhancing the role of trade unions, envisaging regulations concerning the protection of selected employees at the representative bodies of employees), the strike (reviewing the regulations concerning the adoption of a decision on organising a strike and calling a strike, envisaging a regulation, according to which the right to strike is not conditioned only by the existence of collective employment disputes), annual leaves (stipulating efficient mechanisms for exercise of the right to annual leave), the conclusion of an employment contract (envisaging alternative conclusion measures) and content thereof (reviewing the scope of mandatory terms and conditions included in the content), child employment (in particular, reviewing the duration of working hours), as well as many other regulations concerning employment relations will be reviewed. The issues having arisen in the law enforcement practice will be regulated, including preferential right will be established for certain groups (a former military servant entitled to military pension for disability, as well as a family member of the recipient of the military pension for the 1st degree of disability or a fallen (deceased) military servant (spouse, child, father, mother, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather)) in case of reduction of the number of employees and/or staff cuts, the rights of employees having children will be extended (envisaging an opportunity to work for shorter hours, establishing flexible mechanisms for use of breaks provided due to their status), regulations aimed at developing professional skills and promoting the productivity of employees will be envisaged (envisaging comprehensive regulations for organisation of professional trainings for employees), as well as regulations of employment relations will be simplified for the purpose of improving employee-employer relations.

2.2. The relevant draft legal acts are adopted for the purpose of bringing the labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the EU directives within the framework of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which provides that for the purpose of exercising the right to decent work, the mechanisms for regulation of employment relations will be simplified and improved, bringing them into compliance with the requirements of the international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution, point 1 of the Annex to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the structure and activities of the Government", Article 274 of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof serve as a ground for the Action.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is bringing certain regulations of the labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the requirements of the EU directives within the framework of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>After the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof enter into force, the labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia shall be approximated to the relevant directives of the European Union for a period of 5 years and 7 years, pursuant to the Annex to the Agreement.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The relevant draft legal acts for bringing the labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the requirements of the EU directives are envisaged to be elaborated and submit to the Office of the Prime Minister in accordance with the time limits prescribed in the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action it is expected to bring the labour legislation of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the requirements of the EU directives.</p>
	<p><u>2.3. Submitting the model of introduction of extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes and analysis of the financial evaluation to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which provides for introduction of effective extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes which will enhance also the role of social</p>

partners.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, individual labour disputes are subject to examination through judicial procedure.

On the other hand, the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia prescribes that labour disputes may, in compliance with the requirements of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and Law of the Republic of Armenia "On commercial arbitration", be referred to the arbitration tribunal for settlement, where the employee and the employer have concluded an agreement, or a collective agreement envisages an opportunity to refer the dispute to the arbitration.

It should be noted that the examination of labour disputes through judicial procedure requires from the parties — firstly, right from the beginning, and then in the course thereof — considerable expenses. In addition, the examination of labour disputes through judicial procedure also requires from the parties a long time.

An alternative to the settlement of labour disputes through judicial procedure is the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Attaching importance to the issue of protection of employment rights within shorter time limits and without additional expenses, as well as establishing an environment conducive to the free negotiation in employee-employer relations, it is recommended that, in addition to the examination of labour disputes through judicial procedure, an alternative to the protection of employment rights, *i.e.* introduction of extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes, is envisaged for the parties to the employment relations.

Nevertheless, prior to the introduction of practical steps for introduction of the system, it is necessary to have relevant evaluation of the model of introduction of the system and financial resources required for introduction of the system, whereby the amount of the financial resources required from the State Budget for the introduction of the mentioned system in the Republic of Armenia will become clear.

After having the relevant evaluation of the relevant model and financial resources required for introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes, the legal grounds for introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes will be developed where it is possible and appropriate to allocate the relevant resources from the State Budget for introduction of that system.

The Bureau for Co-ordination of Activities of Inspection Bodies of the Office of the Prime Minister is indicated as an action co-implementing body.

The action co-implementing body is expected to hold — in the course of performance of envisaged works — joint discussions throughout the performance of works, as well as to summarise the opinion on the final documents before the document is submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

A recommendation on the model preferable for introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes and the financial resources

	<p>required for introduction of the model. Availability of analysis of the model of introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes and the financial resources necessary for introduction of the system.</p> <p>The availability of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes will allow settling labour disputes within the shortest possible time, without additional expenses. The introduction of the system will secure an environment conducive to free negotiation in employer-employee relations.</p>
	<p><u>2.4. Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the laws for introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes are adopted given the possible and appropriate allocation of relevant resources — under the 2025-2027 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework or upon the results of earnest consideration after the adoption of the Framework — from the State Budget for the introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes, taking into consideration of the results of analysis of the model of introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes and the financial evaluation thereof has been adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which provides for introduction of effective extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes, which will enhance also the role of social partners. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution serve as a ground for the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, individual labour disputes are subject to examination through judicial procedure.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia prescribes that labour disputes may, in compliance with the requirements of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and Law of the Republic of Armenia "On commercial arbitration", be referred to the arbitration tribunal for settlement, where the employee and the employer has concluded an agreement, or a collective agreement envisages an opportunity to refer the dispute to the arbitration.</p> <p>The examination of labour disputes through judicial procedure requires from the parties — firstly, right from the beginning, and then in the course thereof — considerable expenses. In addition, the examination of labour disputes through judicial procedure also requires from the parties a long time.</p> <p>An alternative to the settlement of labour disputes through judicial procedure is the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Attaching importance to the issue of protection of employment rights within shorter time limits and without additional expenses, it is recommended that, in addition to the examination of labour disputes through judicial procedure, an alternative to the protection of employment rights, <i>i.e.</i> introduction of extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes, is envisaged for the parties to the employment relations.</p> <p>After having the analysis and evaluation of the model of introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes and financial resources</p>

	<p>necessary for introduction of the system, draft legal acts for introduction of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes are envisaged to be elaborated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, where it is possible and appropriate to allocate the relevant resources from the State Budget for introduction of that system.</p> <p>The Bureau for Co-ordination of Activities of Inspection Bodies of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Health and Labour Inspection Body are indicated as an action co-implementing body.</p> <p>The action co-implementing bodies are expected to hold — in the course of performance of envisaged works — joint discussions throughout the performance of works, as well as to summarise the opinion on the final documents before the document is submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of the extra-judicial system for settling labour disputes, which will allow settling labour disputes within the shortest possible time, without additional expenses.</p>
	<p><u>2.5. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On trade unions"" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</u></p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-N of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which envisages to expand the toolkit for non-governmental supervision over the fulfilment of the requirements of the labour legislation and to review the scope of powers of trade unions, as well as to review legislative regulations for the activities of employers and trade unions for the purpose of developing and intensifying the social partnership at all levels. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution also serve as a ground for the Action.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is enhancing the role of the institute of trade unions, as well as ensuring the relevant grounds for the purpose of developing and intensifying the social partnership at all levels.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>One of the most important actors in ensuring the effectiveness of the system of protection of the rights of employees is trade unions.</p> <p>One of the best guarantees for the guaranteed protection of the rights of employees is the availability of an efficient trade union. However, it should be noted that not all operating trade unions effectively perform their functions prescribed by law.</p> <p>The activities of trade unions are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On trade unions".</p> <p>At the same time, there is also need to bring the legislation regulating trade unions into compliance with the requirements of the international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia (Conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the Revised European Social Charter).</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action envisages creating — by drawing up relevant recommendations — necessary legal grounds to expand the toolkit of trade unions. The action, at the same, envisages submitting recommendations on relevant amendments and supplements, which will be focused on bringing the legislation regulating the activities of trade unions into compliance with the international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia, as well as will promote the intensification and development of social partnership at all levels.</p> <p>The Ministry of Economics and the Bureau for Co-ordination of Activities of Inspection Bodies of the Office of the Prime Minister are indicated as an action co-implementing body.</p> <p>The action co-implementing bodies are expected to hold — in the course of performance of envisaged works — joint discussions throughout the performance of works, as well as to summarise the opinion on the final package of relevant recommendations before the document is submitted to the stakeholders and the Office of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is expected to expand the toolkit of trade unions, ensure availability of efficient trade unions, which will effectively cooperate also with employers within the framework of collective employment relations.</p> <p>At the same time, the solutions to be recommended will bring the legislation regulating the activities of trade unions into compliance with the requirements of international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the Revised European Social Charter). In particular, regulations will be envisaged, which will allow for representation for more than one union at sectoral, territorial and republican levels providing relevant grounds for development and intensification of social partnership at all levels.</p>
	<p><u>2.6. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On employers' associations'" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which envisages review of legislative regulations for activities of employers' associations and trade unions for the purpose of developing and intensifying the social partnership at all levels. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution serve as a ground for the Action.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is providing relevant grounds for the purpose of developing and intensifying the social partnership at all levels.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The activities of employers' associations are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On employers' associations". Currently there is a need to bring the legislation regulating the activities of employers' associations into compliance with the requirements of the international commitments</p>

	<p>assumed by the Republic of Armenia (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the Revised European Social Charter).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action, at the same, envisages submitting recommendations on relevant amendments and supplements, which will be focused on bringing the legislation regulating the activities of employers' associations into compliance with the international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia, as well as will promote intensification and development of the social partnership at all levels, will be focused on formation of efficient employers' associations.</p> <p>The Ministry of Economics and the Bureau for Co-ordination of Activities of Inspection Bodies of the Office of the Prime Minister are indicated as an action co-implementing body.</p> <p>The action co-implementing bodies are expected to hold — in the course of performance of envisaged works — joint discussions throughout the performance of works, as well as to summarise the opinion on the final package of relevant recommendations before the document is submitted to the stakeholders and the Office of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The solutions to be recommended will bring the legislation regulating the activities of employers' associations into compliance with the requirements of the international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia (conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the Revised European Social Charter). In particular, regulations will be envisaged, which will allow for representation of more than one association at sectoral, territorial and republican level, providing grounds for development and intensification of the social partnership at all levels. Regulations focused on formation of efficient employers' associations will also be prescribed, which will effectively cooperate with trade unions within the framework of collective employment relations.</p>
3	<p><u>3.1. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1691-N of 27 December 2012” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity to maintain social justice in envisaging identical social guarantees for employees of similar organisations carrying out activities in the same sector, as well as to ensure the continuity of the right to benefit from the social package.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The system of social package has been initially introduced for staff employees of state bodies and state non-commercial organisations (many state non-commercial organisations of the sectors of education, culture and social protection and science only have been selected) as an additional social and employment guarantee. However, due to scarce resources allocated for the “Social Package” Programme (1015), even employees of not all organisations of the sectors of education, culture and social protection and science are beneficiaries of the social package.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1691-N of 27 December 2012 prescribes the organisations, the staff</p>

employees working wherein enjoy the right to the social package. The draft envisages to extend the list of beneficiaries of the mentioned social package, namely:

- (1) "Military and Sports College after Monte Melkonyan" Foundation, "The Armenia Genocide Museum-Institute" Foundation, "High School No 182 after Gevorg Emin of Yerevan", "Tsaghkunk Open School" Foundation, "The Armenian-Chinese Friendship School" Foundation have been included in the list of beneficiaries of the social package, taking into consideration the fact that the mentioned foundations, previously constituting SNCOs, have enjoyed the right to the social package, whereas being reorganised into foundation, they were removed from the list of beneficiaries of the social package prescribed by subpoint 5 of point 2 of Annex No 1 to the Decision.
- (2) Both institutions of secondary vocational and higher professional education, supplementary education, including extracurricular upbringing, postgraduate professional education are not included in the list of beneficiaries of the social package, taking into consideration the scarcity of resources allocated for the action. Therefore, for the purpose of ensuring unified social guarantees for the employees of the sector it is recommended to expand the scope of the beneficiaries of the social package, which will allow the trainers of educational institutions implementing programmes of secondary vocational education, 2 sports colleges, 26 children and youth sports schools, employees of 77 educational institutions conducting educational programmes and other represented organisations, trainers-pedagogues working in 26 state non-governmental organisations constituting children and youth sports school and other staff employees of the sectors of education and sports, to also benefit from the social package.
- (3) For the purpose of maintaining social justice in envisaging identical social guarantees for employees of similar organisations carrying out activities in the same sector, the list of beneficiaries of the social package is envisaged to supplement with High School No 3 after M. Abeghyan of the National University of Engineering and Construction of Armenia, High School No 57 of Yerevan State Pedagogical University of Yerevan, "Heratsi" High School of Yerevan State Medical University after M. Heratsi, "Yerevan" High School of the National Polytechnic University of Armenia, taking into consideration the fact that these schools also implement programmes of general education as schools of general education constituting SNCO do, whereas the mentioned high schools, operating within the university and not having a specific organisational and legal form, may not enjoy the right to social package under paragraph "a" of subpoint 5 of point 2 of Annex No 1 to the Decision.
- (4) The procedure for social package prescribes a restriction on benefiting from the social package for persons holding state political, state administrative, autonomous positions (about 500 persons) (except for persons holding positions of judges, prosecutors and investigators, heads and deputy heads of investigative bodies, the President of the Republic of Armenia, the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, advisers, assistants to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Press Secretary of the Republic of Armenia, heads of departments of the Staff of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia), within the meaning of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service". For the purpose of providing for unified social guarantees for employees of the state apparatus it is envisaged to provide about 500 persons an opportunity to also benefit from the social package, for which AMD 36,000.0 thousand will be required per annum.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

	<p>Expanding the scope of beneficiaries of the social package, as a result of which the following persons will also have the right to social package:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) persons deprived of the right to social package due to the change of the organisational and legal form of organisations constituting beneficiaries of the social package (reorganised from state non-governmental organisations into foundations); (2) employees of educational institutions implementing programmes of secondary vocational education, sports college, children and youth sports schools and other staff employment of the sector of education, sports; (3) staff employees of high schools included in the structure of universities; (4) persons holding state political, state administrative positions and other officials (about 500 persons in total), within the meaning of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service".
4	<p><u>4.1. Submitting draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On volunteering and volunteer work" and a package of draft laws envisaging amendments to a number of laws of the Republic of Armenia deriving therefrom to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which envisages stipulation of unified legal mechanisms regulating the volunteering and volunteer work for the purpose of disseminating and encouraging the culture of volunteerism. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution, part 2 of Article 102 of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia also serve as a ground for the Action.</p> <p>It should be mentioned that elaboration of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On volunteering and volunteer work" derives from the requirement of part 2 of Article 102 of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to which the procedure and conditions for voluntary work and the work for providing assistance shall be prescribed by law.</p> <p>At the same time, by ratifying the European Convention on the Promotion of a Transnational Long-Term Voluntary Service for Young People in December 2005, the Republic of Armenia has assumed the commitment of promoting and encouraging the volunteerism. Such a commitment is also prescribed by the UN recommendation on support for volunteering (10 January 2002).</p> <p>The elaboration of the draft Law is conditioned also by the necessity to prescribe the unified legal grounds, as well as to prescribe such competence for organisations in need of currently engaging a volunteer or assistance of a volunteer, but having no legal grounds, and to settle the other issues existing in the sector and hindering the development and introduction of the culture of volunteerism.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Volunteering and volunteer work are considered to be volunteer-based, publicly beneficial, gratuitous, non-mandatory or non-compulsory activity or</p>

work, which has always been and remains in the focus of the civil society.

The relations pertaining to the volunteering and volunteer work in the country have limited, episodic regulations; in fact, there are no unified legal grounds for development and dissemination of the culture of volunteerism. However, there are general regulations with respect to engaging volunteers for organisations implementing charity programmes in the field of charity, and there are more specific, furthermore contractual regulations for non-governmental organisations.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On non-governmental organisations" permits non-governmental organisations to engage volunteers in their non-entrepreneurial activities. In case of volunteer work exceeding 20 hours a week, certain regulations with regard to concluding a contract with a volunteer, the content of the contract on volunteer work, compensation for the performance of volunteer work are prescribed. It should be mentioned that the Law does not stipulate any legal guarantee for those performing volunteer work with workload of up to 20 hours.

The legislation of the Republic of Armenia of the field of charity prescribes the concept of volunteer, the scope of charity recipients, to the benefit of whom the volunteers perform gratuitous works, charitable organisations, which may establish non-governmental associations, foundations or other forms provided for by law. Certain legislative regulations on registering and giving incentives to volunteers involved in the programmes also qualified as charitable are prescribed. Nevertheless, there is no accurate procedure prescribed, *i.e.* contractual regulations, rights and obligations of the parties, social guarantees, regulations on reimbursement of expenses.

It should be mentioned that legislative regulations with regard to volunteers are not prescribed for foundations or organisations established in other forms provided for by law.

It is also of essential significance that the available legislative regulations do not clearly differentiate between volunteers engaged by a non-governmental organisation with workload of up to 20 hours a week, who are involved in volunteer works without a contract, and illegal workers, do not prescribe equal conditions and opportunities for all entities carrying out activities in the sector (organisations in need of engaging a volunteer, persons carrying out volunteer work), do not prescribe the relations pertaining to the volunteerism and volunteer work, and therefore, they are not distinctly separated from employment relations.

The current regulations of the Law "On probation" also, for instance, prescribe certain regulations with regard to a volunteer of the Probation Service, namely, they prescribe the concept of volunteer of the Probation Service, provide for contractual regulations and certain rights and obligations for those volunteers.

Thus, as it has been mentioned, there are certain issues subject to regulation by law, which may hinder the establishment and further development of the sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The legislative regulations recommended will mainly be aimed at establishing the institute of volunteer, including setting the preconditions necessary for engaging the general public in the volunteerism and volunteer work, building an atmosphere of mutual assistance in the public, supporting the

enhancement of the quality of life and improvement of the lifestyle of the population, as well as forming self-organising and active civil society.

In particular, the following are envisaged to stipulate:

- (1) complete legal regulations for separating the relations pertaining to volunteering and performance of volunteer work from employment or civil law relations, volunteer work from the work of an illegal or hired worker;
- (2) scope of persons having the competence to perform volunteer work;
- (3) entities of volunteering and volunteer work (organisations, volunteers, other persons performing volunteer work);
- (4) limitations and specifics of volunteering and volunteer work;
- (5) contractual arrangements of the relations between the volunteer and the organisation;
- (6) mechanisms for compensating the expenses related to the performance of volunteer work, defining tax benefits with regard to compensation for expenses related to the performance of volunteer works;
- (7) guarantees for ensuring the health and safety of volunteers and other persons in the course of volunteer work;
- (8) legal grounds for compensation for the damage incurred by the person performing volunteer work;
- (9) regulations for insurance against possible risks related to volunteer work (accidents, occupational diseases);
- (10) basic rights and obligations of entities of volunteering and volunteer work.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Stipulating complete and uniform legislative regulations for volunteering and volunteer work, including conditions and mechanisms necessary for establishment of the institute of volunteer and development and dissemination of the culture of volunteerism.

4.2. Putting into operation the information platform (website use) regulating the field of volunteering in case there is relevant possibility under the 2024-2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework

1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

After adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On volunteering and volunteer work" necessity for informing the general public about new legislative regulations will arise, and the availability of the official website on volunteerism specifically will have a significant role in the development of the culture of volunteerism.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The relations pertaining to the volunteering and volunteer work in the country have limited, episodic regulations; in fact, there are no unified legal

grounds for development and dissemination of the culture of volunteerism. This hinders the dissemination of the culture of volunteerism in the country.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

AMD 1,5-3 mln will be needed to fully develop the information platform (website) regulating the field of volunteering, post the content, assist in the technical operation, provide safety certificate, purchase the domain and for technical assistance.

Therefore, the operation of such a website will be possible in case relevant resources are provided by the 2024-2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Both citizens and persons engaged in volunteering and performing volunteer work will regularly have the opportunity to receive information on the existing legislative regulations from the official source, and a flexible platform will be established, which will ensure communication between volunteers and bodies and organisations in need of engaged volunteers.

5

5.1. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approval of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On minimum monthly salary'" in case there is relevant possibility to increase the minimum salary based on the results of consideration of the 2025-2027 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of which provides that the Government will take steps to set AMD 85,000 as the minimum salary by 2026. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution serve as a ground for the Action.

The increase of the minimum salary derives also from the commitments assumed under the international agreements ratified by the Republic of Armenia (the Revised European Social Charter, Convention No 131 of the International Labour Organisation).

The objective of elaboration of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On minimum monthly salary"" is to provide the relevant legal ground for increasing the amount of the minimum salary.

At the same time, it should be mentioned that in "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050", as a target indicator, the amount of the average salary is envisaged to be AMD 237.000 for 2025, and the introduced claims include real increase of the salary by 30 % after 5 years.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In Armenia, the main tool of state regulation of salaries is the minimum salary, which is prescribed by law for the whole economy of Armenia. The

	<p>minimum salary is the minimum guarantee set by the State, which must ensure sufficient income for life-sustaining activities of an employee and family members of an employee.</p> <p>The last time the minimum monthly salary was raised was 1 January 2020 — from AMD 55000 to AMD 68000.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate, pursuant to the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On minimum monthly salary"" after considering the possibility of increasing the amount of the minimum salary within the scope of the medium-term expenditure frameworks of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and envisaging increase of the amount of the minimum salary in the relevant State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, taking into consideration the macro-economic situation of the country.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the minimum salary, implementing the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 on increasing the minimum salary, as well as the provisions of the international agreements ratified by the Republic of Armenia, reducing poverty among employed persons, reducing the ratio of minimum salary to average salary, improving the standard of living of the population, setting AMD 85 000 as the minimum monthly salary by 2026.</p>
6	<p><u>6.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 534-N of 17 April 2014” to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The elaboration of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 534-N of 17 April 2014" derives from the requirements of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, part 2 of Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On employment" serve as a ground for the Action. The target indicators of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050" are considered a benchmark for the Action, namely the employment indicator must be 1,200.0 thousand people in 2025.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Drawing up recommendations focused on settling the issues identified during the reforms of the state employment policy, including in the law enforcement practice, introducing, where appropriate, new state employment programmes aimed at expanding the scope of beneficiaries and raising the level of addressability.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>The level of addressability and effectiveness of state programmes for regulation of employment will be raised, new programmes for stimulating competitiveness of the youth, persons with disabilities and women in the labour market and promoting the "education-labour market" relations will be introduced by the draft, where appropriate. The measures aimed at supporting parents with children to combine work and childcare will continue to be improved.</p> <p>Programmes for ensuring employment for persons who became disabled in consequence of military operations will be developed and continuously improved.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The draft envisages to raise the level of addressability of state programmes for regulation of employment, raising the level of effectiveness of programmes through regulation of issues identified in the law enforcement practice, introducing, where appropriate, new programmes for stimulating competitiveness of the youth, persons with disabilities and women in the labour market and promoting the "education-labour market" relations.</p>
	<p><u>6.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1326-L of 12 August 2021” to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The elaboration of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1326-L of 12 August 2021" derives from the requirements of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia serve as a ground for the Action. Target indicator 4.2.3 of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050" is considered a benchmark for the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the regulations effective under Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1326-L of 12 August 2021, the Action is implemented with employers having submitted an application and vacancy notices by 20 December 2021. Necessity has arisen to enhance, through the Action, the employability of former military servants having sustained an injury (wound) and declared as a person who became disabled in consequence of military operations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The draft provides an opportunity to implement the Action of providing state assistance in case of job placement of former military servants (persons equivalent thereto) having sustained an injury (wound) and declared as persons who became disabled in consequence of the military operations with employers having submitted an application and vacancy notices in 2022.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>As a result of adoption of the draft, in 2022 the Action is expected to provide employment to about 200 former military servants (persons equivalent thereto) having sustained an injury (wound) and declared as persons who became disabled in consequence of military operations, for 20 of which — with adjustment of the workplace. Thus, about AMD 90 million (100 000*4*200+20*500 000) will be required from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia to implement the Action.</p>
	<p><u>7.1. Capacity-building and methodological support for professional orientation in the system of general education</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Nowadays the selection of a profession becomes more complex challenge, as the projection of economies becomes difficult particularly in medium-term and long-term perspective, the technologies develop rapidly, the values of the society, profile of the new generation change, etc. The conscious selection of a profession determines social activity, practical training, knowledge and, in general, positions of a person in life. From the point of view of the society, work output in the national economy, effectiveness of use of the intellectual potential, volumes of internal and external migration, etc. depend on the conscious selection of a profession. Therefore, it directly impacts the economy of the country. The legal ground for implementation of this Action is the Strategy "Work, Armenia!" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1753-L of 5 December 2019: Action 1.5. "Full introduction of the institute of professional orientation at schools". Taking into consideration the results of pilot introduction, Order No 1287-A/2 of 18 December 2019 of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia has approved "Educational and methodical guidelines for professional orientation activities at schools of general education" which is recommended for use.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The primary and fundamental stage of professional orientation is the general education, where the activities of selection of a profession and self-identification of a person start. Based on the requirements and objectives of the market-oriented economy, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia has developed models of introduction of professional orientation services at institutions of general education, methodology of professional orientation of pupils (academic programmes and modules). In 2013-2021, more than 900 pedagogues of 500 schools of Yerevan and all marzes of the Republic have undergone training, individual consulting activities were carried out therewith. The on-line assessment conducted in 2021 for the purpose of identifying the state of art of works of professional orientation at schools of general education of Yerevan and marzes of the Republic of Armenia, assessing the enrolment of pedagogues and training needs have showed that of 800 schools having participated in the survey, 33 % have pedagogues having undergone training in professional orientation and carrier guidance, 66,5% have noted that activities of professional orientation are performed at their schools, whereas they do not have trained pedagogues. While 83% of schools having pedagogues trained by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia perform activities of professional orientation and career guidance, 17% fail to do so.</p> <p>The results of assessment prove that from the point of view of introduction of the system of professional orientation the activities are insufficient, as the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia has not yet ensured institutionalisation of activities of professional orientation at schools.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of introducing professional orientation clubs at 1355 state schools of general education of the Republic until the beginning of 2023-2024 academic year, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "Ministry") must train more than 2500 pedagogues and annually provide supervision services for more than 500 trained specialists. The Ministry continues the active cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia in introduction of a universal system for professional orientation at schools. Major importance will be attached also to the introduction of groups, in parallel to the process of piloting the new standards launched at all state schools of general education of Tavush Marz starting from 1 September 2021. In particular, as a mandatory group, professional orientation clubs will be operated, which will be established at all schools of Tavush Marz in 2021-2022 academic year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected that within the 2nd ten-day period of 2023, professional orientation clubs established in 1355 state schools of general education will have pedagogues trained by relevant methodology, who enable pupils studying in 8-11 grades to make conscious selection of a profession.</p>
	<p><u>7.2. Introducing services of professional orientation and career guidance in the system of integrated social services</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The structural unemployment remains concerning in the Republic. The root cause of this is the chronic imbalance between professional education and labour market, lack of information on projected demand with respect to selection of a profession and directions of development of the economy, entry of rapidly developing technologies into different sectors of the economy resulting in generation of demand for new professions and new skills. We must acknowledge that free-market economy defines new approaches and requirements for stable employment of the population. And one of the important components of the inclusive growth within the scope of the inclusive economic policy adopted by the Republic of Armenia is contribution to the formation and development of human capital. This is also one of the objectives of the agenda for sustainable development. It must also be emphasised that according to the requirements of subpoint 4 of Article 1 of the Revised European Social Charter, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia must ensure the exercise of the right of a person to professional orientation. The 2015 Report on fulfilment of the requirements of the Articles of the European Social Charter adopted by Armenia, submitted to the Committee of Ministers, recorded progress with respect to the introduction of the system of professional orientation; however, the Committee expects to receive information in the new report, whereas the services of professional orientation have not yet been fully introduced in the social sector.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Conditioned by switching over to the system of unified social services, new objectives have been set forth in the process of providing services of professional orientation and career guidance in the system of social services. Due to the establishment of the system of unified social services, the majority of previously trained specialists of territorial centres of the State Employment Agency do not work in the system or hold other position, therefore, in the medium-term perspective one of the primary objectives is methodical support and capacity-building of specialists of 49 centres, based</p>

	<p>on the priority of professional orientation and career guidance of a person within the framework of effective implementation of programmes for social work and employment. It is necessary to assess the capacities of the human capital of the system, develop a model of the process of organisation and performance of this service within the framework of the Unified Social Service, train relevant specialists.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the accessibility of services of professional orientation and career guidance in 49 centres for unified social services newly established in the Republic, it is necessary to develop a new model of introduction of the system, organise and carry out the training of relevant specialists, support with methodology and continuous technical advice.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to provide visitors of all newly-established 49 territorial centres for unified social services with the opportunity to use the services of professional orientation and career guidance, have competent specialist, who will facilitate the process of stimulating the competitiveness of job-seekers and unemployed persons in the labour market and ensuring effective employment, as well as targeted implementation of state employment programmes.</p>
	<p><u>7.3. Support to the introduction of services of professional orientation in institutions providing round-the-clock care and protection to children</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring conscious selection of a profession by adolescents and young people in a difficult life situation and with disabilities, their competitiveness in the labour market and employment, special importance is attached to the introduction of the services of professional orientation in institutions providing round-the-clock care and protection to children that operate within the system of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2017-2021, more than 30 specialists of the multi-disciplinary group of these institutions have continuously undergone training by the methodology developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Taking into consideration the social status and health condition of beneficiary children, the methodology is based not only on the principle of professional orientation, but also functional assessment and determination of professional competence of a person. Following the reforms of the system, the universal principles and methodology for the selection of a profession have not yet been introduced in all institutions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The activities for introduction of services of professional orientation and career guidance in institutions providing round-the-clock care and protection to children operating in the Republic are underway.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of this Action, it is expected to introduce services of professional orientation and career guidance in all operating institutions providing round-the-clock care and protection to children, have specialists having undergone relevant training, who will facilitate the process of conscious selection by adolescents of a profession, receiving professional education and raising the competitiveness thereof in the labour market.</p>
7	<p><u>7.4. Developing centres for professional orientation and career guidance introduced in institutions of primary and secondary vocational education (PSVET) and training</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The issue of establishment and development of career subdivisions in PSVET institutions has been emphasised within the framework of reforms in the VET system, attaching importance to their role in professional orientation and career guidance of students and graduates, rapid integration in the labour market, shaping of competitive labour force. As a separate pre-condition, the establishment of career centres in VET institutions has been prescribed also in 2017-2019 Budget Support Agreement "Better Qualifications for Better Jobs" concluded between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the EU. The provision of services of career guidance of graduates in VET institutions should contribute to their employment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Attaching importance to the provision of services of professional orientation and career guidance equivalent to the developments of the labour market, centres for professional orientation and career guidance have been universally introduced in all 103 PSVET institutions of the Republic since 2018 by the model and methodology developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. In all centres services are performed with prescribed toolkit, enabling to monitor and assess the results, effectiveness of activities carried out with students and graduates. According to the results of monitoring conducted in the fourth quarter of 2019, in 2018-2019 97,3 % of students and in 2019-2020 97,3 % of graduates were provided with a range of individual and group services of career guidance. Due to the establishment of career centres, the number of the graduates, who find a job by their profession within one year after graduation, has increased. The system is yet newly introduced, and an important pre-condition for ensuring its sustainability is the continuous methodological support and professional consultation to specialists. The lack of opportunities to maintain electronic database on student, employers and other electronic database must be highlighted among issues.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring sustainability of the introduced system it is necessary to continue trainings, methodological consultation for the capacity-building of specialists of career centres of VET institutions. Also, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport should establish a unified electronic system for documenting the activities carried out with students and graduates, which will provide decision-makers an opportunity to make necessary statistical analysis.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of this Action, it is expected to continuously develop the activities of centres for professional orientation and career</p>

	<p>guidance operating within PSVET institutions and ensure sustainability, as a result of which graduates of PSVET institutions will be more competitive in the labour market and have stable employment.</p>
	<p><u>8.1. Submitting the draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On social assistance" and related laws" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the objective prescribed by the first and third paragraphs of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021:</p> <p>The policy on social assistance will be based on social needs assessment and the principle of providing a social service that is proportionate to the assessment, thus boosting the socio-economic potential of a person. Families that turned to be in difficult life situation and in need will get out of poverty through capacity-building and development of skills, by providing measures for employment and self-employment and by applying the models for gradually overcoming poverty. It is envisaged to provide social services to more families by increasing the number of self-sufficient, dignified families with own income, gradually eliminating their dependence on government support. Encouraging and stimulating every citizen capable of working and enhancing the skills and potential of the person for this purpose are the axis of the social policy of the State.</p> <p>In order to provide quality social services it is necessary to have in the Republic professional personnel of structures providing social services, with ongoing professional development opportunities.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The policy on social assistance needs to be reviewed, placing greater emphases on the socio-economic potential of a person, which will provide legal basis for developing mechanisms for getting families (persons) out of poverty through capacity-building and development of skills thereof. Types of social services prescribed by the legislation are also subject to expansion.</p> <p>Social workers play a major role in the protection of human rights. Social work is a professional activity, it is aimed at identification, assessment of social needs of persons (families) in a difficult life situation, vulnerable groups, and protection of human rights, capacity-building, self-realisation and self-identification of a person by use of different methods. In this respect, it is necessary to carry out professional social work with families, starting from assessment of the needs to provision of social assistance or service and, consequently, overcoming the poverty of families.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On social assistance" and related laws" will be elaborated, which would form the legal basis for the segment relating to the sector of social assistance in the field of the social protection, which will allow facilitating the development of social skills of a person for self-identification, self-help based on the principle of assessment</p>

	<p>of social needs and provisions of social service proportionate thereto, thus boosting the socio-economic potential of a person.</p> <p>At the same time, the adoption of the legislative package, introduction of mechanisms for development of the institute of social work, quality control of the social work, the system of ongoing professional development will make it possible to expand the framework, range and enhance the quality of social services provided to the population. Qualification programmes for specialists of social work, relevant training opportunities will be introduced, working conditions will be improved, including adequate payment for the work performed, as well as the standards for provision of social services and for social work will be prescribed. This creates an opportunity to form professional personnel of social workers and place the activities carried out in the field of social assistance on professional grounds. The legislative package will include also regulations to accomplish the objective of the Action (with respect to the necessity to elaborate the draft Law "On social work") provided for by point 17.2 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 650-L of 16 May 2019.</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the standards for social work will be developed and approved; (2) the mechanisms for ongoing trainings of social works of the sector of social protection will be introduced. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>A legal basis will be formed to add types of social services provided and improve the quality thereof.</p>
	<p><u>8.2. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1061-N of 10 May 2015 and No 145-N of 30 January 2014" is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the objective prescribed by the second paragraph of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> based on the Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On social assistance" and "On state benefits", a new system for social security assessment will be introduced, due to which social assistance programmes will be more addressable. The packages of non-financial services offered will be aimed at meeting the primary needs of people in the education, healthcare and social sectors. A definite format for dealing with social issues will be introduced — starting from detecting the problem and ending with the solution to the problem.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The procedure for social security assessment of families are approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 145-N of 30 January 2014, and the procedure and conditions for exercise of powers of territorial centres for the Unified Social Service, provision of social services are prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1061-N of 10 September 2015. The procedure for social security</p>

	<p>assessment of a family which will include also the resources of a family, has not yet put into operation. Parameters of social security assessment of families (in the past years they have not undergone changes and are not in line with current challenges), the number and quality of services provided by territorial centres need to be reviewed.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to review the above-mentioned decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, launching the system of social security assessment of families, review the current parameters (based on which the benefits for improving the standard of living of a family are also granted) and apply the models for gradually overcoming poverty.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The standard of living of families in need will improve by the adoption of drafts of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p><u>8.3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the target programme for providing state support for acquisition by families that need shelters an apartment or a residential house" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the objective prescribed by the fourth paragraph of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> based on the Law "On social assistance", programmes aimed at solving the housing issues of families that need shelters will be implemented.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, with the support of the World Bank, within the framework of the integrated living standards surveys of households conducted each year, assesses also the multi-dimensional poverty, one of the five dimensions of which is the housing conditions, the indicators whereon are concerning, in particular for socially vulnerable groups. It is envisaged to prescribe for families that need shelters a social mortgage, which would each year create decent living conditions for a certain number of families.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action recommends prescribing a social mortgage for families in need of shelters that would, each year, create decent living conditions for families referred to a certain social group. The maximum amount for the apartment or a residential house, the scope of beneficiaries and other necessary conditions will also be prescribed. The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will prescribe the procedure and conditions for fully subsidised mortgage lending for the purpose of acquisition of an apartment or a residential house by families and the list of groups of families considered beneficiaries. The mentioned baseline data, <i>i.e.</i> the number of beneficiaries and the necessary financial resources will be considered and discussed within the framework of the MTEF programmes.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Solving the housing problem of families that need shelters.</p>
	<p><u>8.4. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Unified Social Strategy for housing and the 5-year Action Plan” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the objective prescribed by the 4th paragraph of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> based on the Law "On social assistance", the unified social policy on housing will be developed for the purpose of providing needy families and other vulnerable groups with permanent or temporary shelters.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Various Ministries implement housing programmes for different social groups, and the beneficiaries thereof are different socially vulnerable groups. They also apply different mechanisms for providing permanent or temporary shelters, and the State does not conduct a unified policy in this regard.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action recommends elaborating the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Unified Social Strategy for housing and the Action Plan deriving therefrom”, which will envisage mechanisms for providing permanent or temporary shelters to low-income and needy families and other vulnerable groups (alternative mechanisms for acquisition of an apartment – granting certificates for purchase of an apartment, servicing of the mortgage from the funds of the State Budget, partial reimbursement of the amount of the lease, etc.), as well as will ensure implementation of the unified policy. Within the framework of the implementation of the Action it is envisaged to establish also a foundation for the purpose of expanding the social housing fund.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The adoption of the draft will allow the low-income and needy families and other vulnerable groups to have permanent or temporary shelters.</p>
	<p><u>8.5. Introducing emergency rapid response, resistance mechanisms of the social security system</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the objective prescribed by Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> by 2026 the Government will take the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ to eliminate extreme poverty.

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In Armenia, there is a high risk of crisis situations, whereas the rapid response, resistance mechanisms of the social protection system are extremely insufficient. Those mechanisms need to be reviewed, in particular after the situation in the Republic conditioned by the pandemic and the martial law.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>(1) in case an urgent need arises for a family, a person, the social protection system may consider establishment of emergency social assistance, including a food bank as a rapid response mechanism. It is envisaged that the emergency social assistance, including the food bank will be established through cooperation of the state administration, local self-government bodies, international and non-governmental organisations. This programme foresees a system of mutual assistance within the society, where everyone may make their contribution, by giving the system certain subsistence support – basic household necessities, clothes, food, etc., which, after storage, will be redistributed to families, persons that need them. A rapid response tool, <i>i.e.</i> an information platform will be fully introduced through cooperation, where the needs for urgent assistance will be entered and the cooperating parties will rapidly provide the necessary assistance.</p> <p>(2) at the same time, the information subsystem for conducting a social case will include a programme package of emergency rapid response mechanisms, which will allow for providing direct and targeted assistance to vulnerable groups in need thereof in case of crises.</p> <p>(3) a food card system will be introduced, which will operate on the whole territory of the Republic.</p> <p>At the same time, it is envisaged to provide a legal basis for the foregoing through draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social assistance” and related laws”.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Creating new opportunities for providing subsistence support in order to assist families in need.</p>
8	<p><u>8.6. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Strategy for reforming the system of integrated social services and the 5-year Action Plan for development of the Unified Social Service” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the objectives prescribed by the 3rd paragraph of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> based on the Law "On social assistance", the Government will enhance the newly established Unified Social Service. It will continuously engage in capacity building among professionals of the personnel of structures providing social services. By 2023, 100% of social workers of the Unified Social Service will undergo professional training.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the framework of reforms of the sector of the social protection, in light of introduction of the system of integrated social services, the Unified</p>

	<p>Social Service has been launched since 1 April 2021, which has been established with involvement of all 4 bodies of the sector of social protection, <i>i.e.</i> the social security service constituting a body subordinate to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, state offices of medical and social expert examination, employment, and state assistance agencies under marz subordination and social assistance divisions under community subordination. The Law reserves many powers to the Service, as well as activities for filling the vacancies are carried out. The Service needs to be enhanced.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action recommends strengthening the institutional and professional capacities of the Unified Social Service, with regard to which it is necessary to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Strategy for reforming the system of unified social services and the 5-year Action Plan for development of the Unified Social Service”, as well as to carry out the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) launching the information subsystem for conducting a social case, elaborating the substantial description of the subsystem for social assessment of a family; (2) improving the facility conditions of the Unified Social Service and availability of technically upgraded territorial centres; (3) trained professional personnel of the Unified Social Service; (4) availability of a unified information system, simplifying of the procedure for provision of services, automation of decision-making processes. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Providing a package of various and complete social services and improving the quality of the services provided.</p>
	<p><u>9.1. Assessment of social needs of the elderly under the care of social protection institutions and outside of these institutions</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions (point 25) of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 "Development of Human Capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and aims at completely and fully revising and assessing the needs of the elderly and/or persons with disabilities. They are necessitated by the services currently in place, as well as the introduction of new services.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The full and comprehensive assessment of recipients of care services at the institutions of social protection of the elderly, including the population is necessary to individually study the social, psychological, health condition of each of them, their housing conditions, family and other social ties, their desires, needs and potential to live independently, benefit from certain services, and other factors.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

The list of services includes full development and approval of the description of each community-based service, procedure for provision thereof, quantitative and qualitative criteria for, methodology of provision and assessment of the services, including assessment of cost-effectiveness of each service.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The social needs of the elderly under the care of both social protection institutions and outside of those institutions are assessed (the need of about 1000 elderly people is assessed). The list of preferred services is available. The list of community-based services is approved according to the types of services and according to communities.

9.2. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1112-N of 25 September 2015” and “On approving the main principles of care provided to elder people and/or persons with disabilities and criteria for services and staff units” is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions (point 25) of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and aims at reviewing and clarify the procedure and conditions for providing services of care for elderly and/or persons with disabilities, bringing them into compliance with the up-to-date approaches and including such provisions therein that are missing in the procedure in force, yet are considered to be necessity conditioned by currently existing services, as well as by the introduction of new services. At the same time, the ensuring of the standard of living of elderly people, as a commitment of the State, is enshrined in subpoint 12 of Article 48 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently the organisations providing care and other social services for the elderly are not fully covered by the existing procedure, in particular there is no distinction between social daytime centres, the food provision service is missing; the same issue may be encountered in case of home care, when the existing procedure does not include the provision on providing services to persons having mental health issues, in the event that that service actually operates since 2020. There is a problem in relation to the procedure and conditions for applying for care, conditioned by the introduction of the Unified Social Service. Review is needed also in relation to medical counter-indications, including restrictions for provision of care.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the framework of implementation of the Action, the above-mentioned Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will be reviewed, which will clarify the procedure and conditions for applying for provision of care, in particular stipulating the role of the office of the Unified Social Service, different types of care services, types of daytime centres will be differentiated, daytime centres will be separated from cafeterias (considering the latter as a measure for providing in-kind assistance to socially disadvantaged persons), a provision on introducing new services will be stipulated, restriction on providing care will be reviewed, etc.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improving the legislation of the sector, reviewing a legal act, clarifying the procedure for providing care, reviewing the existing criteria for care and bringing the descriptions of types of services into compliance with the existing and foreseen services.</p>
9	<p><u>9.3. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic No 1069-N of 10 September 2015” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of subpoint 2 of part 2 of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On social assistance”. The implementation of the Action envisages to make amendments and supplements to the legal act in force, which derives from the necessity to clarify the procedure for providing a shelter to homeless persons having no specific place of residence, approved by Annex No 4 to Decision of the Government No 1069-N of 10 September 2015, as well as to prescribe new services by the status of homeless persons. The objective of implementation of the Action is providing relevant shelters and social services to persons having no specific place of residence and having different health issues and social status.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Republic has one temporary shelter for homeless persons, which has certain counter-indications for admission, according to the procedure in force. However, there are homeless persons who need a shelter and care, whereas due to the fact that they have tuberculosis or mental health issues, or uncertain status and diagnosis, they are, therefore, deprived of the opportunity to be provided with a shelter and receive relevant social services, as the Republic has no special specialised shelters for homeless persons, and the current procedure for providing a temporary shelter has no such regulations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, the issue of establishing services of different types for homeless persons will be solved, and these persons, according to their status, will be accommodated, given the disease or other circumstance, either in a temporary shelter for homeless persons or in a specialised shelter, or in reception and diagnostic centres. The draft Decision of the Government will regulate the above-mentioned issues.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of adoption of the legal act elaborated within the framework of implementation of the Action, we will have three types of the service for providing accommodation to a homeless person having no specific place of residence, <i>i.e.</i> temporary accommodation (shelter), specialised shelter (for homeless persons having different health issues, the medical diagnoses of which are considered as counter-indication for admission to a temporary accommodation as prescribed by law. These mainly have two directions — tuberculosis and/or sexually transmitted infections (including for homeless persons having HIV/AIDS and having mental health issues (dotage, dementia, psychosis, mental health issues and/or mental disorder), and the reception and diagnostic centre which serves as an interim link between the other services, and is envisaged for providing urgent social assistance to homeless persons who is not identified, displays obviously inappropriate behaviour, has suspicious mental health. Accordingly, the right of all homeless persons to</p>

	have a shelter will be ensured, and their social and psychological and healthcare issues will be solved.
10	<p><u>10.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2022-2027 Comprehensive Programme for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the 2022-2027 Comprehensive Programme for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities" derives from the requirements of point 2(a) of part 1 of Article 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On rights of persons with disabilities" and point 22 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is stipulating the main directions for social inclusion of persons with disabilities, the list of comprehensive actions and programmes ensuring the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of public life.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Protocol Decision No 1 of 8 January 2017 "On approving the 2017-2021 Comprehensive Programme for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and the List of Actions" is valid until 2021. Therefore, there is a need to develop a new strategic document in ensuring, promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, which will stipulate the main directions of the state policy, the 5-year action plan for social inclusion of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In 2010, after adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006, different actions for ensuring equal and accessible conditions for persons with disabilities, protection of their fundamental rights and freedoms are implemented in different sectors. However, they are not sufficient and coordinated. Accessible conditions are not ensured for persons with disabilities, which is a serious obstacle to their social inclusion.</p> <p>On 5 May 2021, the Law "On the rights of persons with disabilities" was adopted, which stipulates efficient mechanisms for ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, ruling out discrimination on the ground of disability. Based on the foregoing, it is necessary to undertake, through active cross-sectoral cooperation, required actions ensuring the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Their accountability, monitoring should be ensured, performing also the international commitments.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring equal opportunities, social inclusion and independent life for persons with disabilities.</p> <p><u>10.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for making reasonable adaptations" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p>

The necessity to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the procedure for making reasonable adaptations" derives from the requirements of part 1 of Article 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the rights of persons with disabilities" and point 22 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is stipulating mechanisms for making reasonable adaptations, which will allow exercising the rights of persons with disabilities by making necessary adaptations and ensuring accessible conditions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In 2010, after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2006, the State has committed to provide equal opportunities and accessible conditions for the purpose of ensuring the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. For the purpose of ensuring the accessibility of services, programmes, the reasonable adaptation is applied, which implies making necessary and relevant changes and adaptations (adjustments) which do not give rise to disproportionate and undue burden and are aimed at exercise by a person with disabilities of human rights and fundamental freedoms on equal footing with others.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

This Action envisages stipulating the procedure and conditions for making reasonable adaptations, according to which all the necessary conditions for the exercise of the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities will be ensured at the workplace, educational institutions and in the sector of service provision. It should be mentioned that within the meaning of the Law "On the rights of persons with disabilities", refusing to make reasonable adaptations also constitutes discrimination on the ground of disability.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Providing equal opportunities and accessible conditions for persons with disabilities, ruling out manifestations of discrimination on the ground of disability.

10.3. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On providing care and social rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities through state certificates" is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government "On providing care and social rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities through state certificates" derives from the requirements of Article 21 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the rights of persons with disabilities" and points 22 and 23 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the Action is enhancing social rehabilitation services aimed at social inclusion of persons with disabilities, introducing new mechanisms, ensuring their effectiveness.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

	<p>Services of daytime care for persons with disabilities and social rehabilitation services aimed at organisation of daytime care for persons with disabilities, their social inclusion and development of skills of independent life are performed within the framework of certain expenditure measures of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Since 2019, notices for tenders have been given for the purpose of performing services, wherein organisations certified under the procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs may participate. The organisations successful following the tenders shall be provided with grants from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of organising the care for, occupation of persons with disabilities in daytime centres, training of necessary skills. For the purpose of improving the competition between the services and, therefore, the quality and addressability of the services it is envisaged to grant — based on the assessed need of persons with disabilities — state certificates for providing social rehabilitation services.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action stipulates the procedure and conditions for providing care and social rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities through state certificates. State certificates are generated according to the assessed need of the person with disability. The state certificate allows a beneficiary to select the organisation, where a service may be provided thereto. Provision of the services through state certificates ensures increase on the number of organisations in communities, improvement of the competition and quality of services.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Expanding social rehabilitation services provided to persons with disabilities, introducing new mechanisms for provision of services.</p>
11	<p><u>11.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for functional assessment of a person and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 276-N of 2 March 2006" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for functional assessment of a person and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 276-N of 2 March 2006" derives from the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On functional assessment of a person" and point 24 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the Action is introducing the system of functional assessment of a person, stipulating the procedure for disability assessment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On functional assessment of a person" was adopted on 5 May 2021, according to which a new model of disability assessment is introduced, based on the principles of the international classification of functions of the World Health Organisation. Given the foregoing,</p>

	<p>necessity has arisen to repeal the legal acts of the sector of medical and social expert examination and elaborate secondary legal acts deriving from the Law "On functionality of a person".</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>This Action stipulates the procedure, conditions, terms, etc. for functional assessment of a person.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of a new model for disability assessment based on the comprehensive assessment of the needs of the person, digitisation of the assessment process.</p>
	<p><u>11.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the criteria and tools for functional assessment of a person and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 780-N of 13 June 2003" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the criteria and tools for functional assessment of a person and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 780-N of 13 June 2003" derives from the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On functional assessment of a person" and point 24 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is introducing the system of functional assessment of a person, stipulating the criteria for disability assessment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On functional assessment of a person" was adopted on 5 May 2021, according to which a new model of disability assessment is introduced, based on the principles of the international classification of functions of the World Health Organisation. Given the foregoing, necessity has arisen to repeal the legal acts of the sector of medical and social expert examination and elaborate secondary legal acts deriving from the Law "On functionality of a person".</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>This Action stipulates the criteria for functional assessment of a person.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of a new model for disability assessment based on the comprehensive assessment of the needs of the person, approval of the assessment</p>

criteria.

11.3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for developing and implementing the Individual Service Plan and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1535-N of 24 December 2015" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity to elaborate the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for developing and implementing the Individual Service Plan and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1535-N of 24 December 2015" derives from the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On functional assessment of a person" and point 24 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the Action is improving the mechanisms for specifying the services, based on comprehensive assessment of needs of the person.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On functional assessment of a person" was adopted on 5 May 2021, according to which a new model of disability assessment is introduced, based on the principles of the international classification of functions of the World Health Organisation. The functional assessment will result in specification of the package of services for the person, based on the functional limitations, issues in the activity and in the environment.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The Action stipulates the procedure and conditions for developing the Individual Service Plan, based on comprehensive assessment of the needs of the person.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Improving the mechanisms for specifying the services based on comprehensive assessment of the needs of the person.

12 12.1. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the package of Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Family Code of the Republic of Armenia" is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity of the Action derives from the importance of improving the processes of alternative care of children, in particular processes of fostering and adoption, as well as of enhancement of mechanisms for the protection of the rights of children. Articles 36, 37 and 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia serve as a ground for the Action, and it derives from the requirements of points 17, 18, 19 and 20 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision

of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the gaps in the regulations prescribed by the sectoral legislation does not allow to provide full requisites for exercise of the rights of children, as well as clear description of processes of considering the opinion of children and the necessary mechanisms therefor are missing.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The amendment to the legislation will ensure that the processes of organisation of further care of children actually left without parental care are defined, including methods of alternative care of family type. The processes of considering the opinion of children will be clearly stipulated.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, the submission to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia the draft Law ensuring the best interest, will be ensured

12.2. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the package of Laws of the Republic of Armenia 'On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On the rights of the child', and 'On making amendments and supplements to the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia'" is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the importance of precise separation of the functions of actors of the sector of protection of the rights of the child, as well as the performance of international commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia. Articles 36, 37 and 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, as well as paragraphs 17, 18, 19 and 20 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 serve as a ground for the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the functions of actors of the sector of protection of the rights of children are stipulated partially, in certain cases the functions overlap, which impedes the effectiveness of activities related to children in a difficult life situation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The amendments will stipulate the precise powers of professionals of the sector of protection of the rights of children as well as other sector-related reforms.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The amendments will ensure the submission to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia the drafts prescribing the precise powers of

professionals of the sector of protection of the rights of children, as well as embracing other sector-related reforms.

12.3. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the package of the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On social protection of children left without parental care'" is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the importance of expanding the scope of benefits granted to children left without parental care and persons falling under the category of children left without parental care.

Articles 37 and 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, as well as paragraph 17 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 serve as a ground for the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In recent years, the admission to institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) education is carried out also by the fee-paid instruction system, and children left without parental care and persons falling under the category of children left without parental care are also admitted to the fee-paid system on a competitive basis, which is not regulated by the Law and is not in the interests of children left without parental care.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of solving the existing issue it is recommended that the scope of the prescribed benefits is expanded and the opportunity to be admitted to the state institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) education free of charge is also made available to children left without parental care and persons falling under the category of children left without parental care.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, conditions conducive to the exercise of the right to education of children left without parental care and persons falling under the category of children left without parental care will be ensured, as well as conditions for children left without parental care receiving care in round-the-clock care institutions and persons falling under the category of children left without parental care who are graduates of round-the-clock care institutions to lead independent life will be improved.

13 13.1. Monitoring and assessment of the facility conditions of 3 state non-commercial organisations providing round-the-clock care

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action derives from the requirements of point 26 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia

No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 serve as a ground for the Action, and it is aimed at reviewing and clarifying the conditions for providing care services rendered to beneficiaries, making repairs and improvements, bringing them into compliance with the up-to-date approaches, which are required, given the currently existing services, as well as the introduction of new services.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, buildings and premises of organisations providing care and other social services to beneficiaries are still in grave condition, need urgent repair, the property is worn out. This not only creates indecent conditions for care and residence, but also complicates the activity and makes it not presentable.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the framework of implementation of the Action, the assessment by SNCOs of their facility conditions will be reviewed, monitoring will be conducted and all gaps will be documented. This necessity derives from the fact that such activities have not been conducted for decades, and capital renovation is needed.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Initiating activities of repair and improvement in day-care institutions operating in the sector, which will serve as a ground for drawing up of design and estimate documents and improvement.

13.2. Drawing up by relevant professionals the design and estimate documents for the facility conditions of at least 3 state non-commercial organisations providing round-the-clock and day care, through an organisation selected under competition procedure

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action derives from the requirements of point 26 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 serve as a ground for the Action, and it is aimed at clarifying the extent of conditions for providing care services rendered to beneficiaries, particularly making repairs and improvements, which is required, given the performance of those activities.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Since the construction has started, the buildings and premises have not undergone capital renovation, and the existing problems have regularly exacerbated. The calculations were not made by specialised companies, conditioned by which it was unknown how much resources were needed to eliminate the indecent conditions for care and residence.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the framework of implementation of the Action, the assessment of the requirements previously undergone monitoring and introduced by the

	<p>particular department, by providing a clear mechanism and picture of precise calculations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Measurability of works of repair and improvement in day-care institutions operating in the sector, which will clarify how much resources are provided from the financial source.</p>
	<p><u>13.3. Organising the process of improvement of the facility conditions of at least 3 state non-commercial organisations providing round-the-clock and day care</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the requirements of point 26 of Subsection 4.6 "Labour and social protection" of Section 4 "Development of human capital" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and it is aimed at reviewing and clarifying the conditions for providing care services rendered to beneficiaries, making repairs and improvements, bringing them into compliance with the up-to-date approaches, which are required, given the currently existing services, as well as the introduction of new services.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The works of repair in care centres have been underperformed or have not been performed through the funding of the state or community budget, other resources not prohibited by law, international partners, as there was no clear need assessment. The availability of design and estimate documents represents the amount of the monetary funds, allows to classify the issues according the need and solvability.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Monitoring assessment performed and design and estimate documents submitted by specialised organisations will be provided in the medium-term expenditure framework, from the point of view of requesting measurable amount in compliance with the requirements of the Programme of the Government.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Performing the works of repair and improvement in three day-care institutions, which would create favourable conditions for life and care, breathe new life into the care centres and make the sector more representable.</p>
14	<p><u>14.1. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2024-2026 Strategy for implementation of the Gender Policy and the Action Plan” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from Article 30 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Article 15 of the Law of the</p>

	<p>Republic of Armenia “On equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men”, paragraph 16 of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, as well as target results and indicators deriving therefrom referred to in subpoint 5.3 of the actions prescribed by “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050” serve as a benchmark therefor. The objective of implementation of the Action is strengthening and improving – through legislative reforms, as well as close cooperation with institutes of the civil society – the national mechanism for advancement of women, by ensuring equal participation of women in all sectors of public life.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Although the state bodies have carried out – with the support of non-governmental organisations and international institutions – many activities aimed at gender equality in different sectors, and the necessary grounds for creating effective environment have been placed to implement a sectoral and cross-sectoral directed policy, there are many obstacles and challenges on the way to achieve gender equality, as well as there is obviously a gender gap in all sectors of the public life.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>This Action envisages to establish efficient mechanisms for supporting the active participation of women in the public and political life, introducing mechanisms for involving social and political resources of women in the processes of democratisation of the society, improving the activities and cooperation of the operating Council on Women’s Affairs and the standing committees on gender issues operating in Marzpetarans of the Republic of Armenia and Yerevan Municipality, ensuring equal participation of women in all sectors of the public life.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Having equal participation of women in all sectors of public life in place, including in the sector of management and decision-making, availability of programmes promoting entrepreneurship of women in the economy, availability of programmes ensuring equal accessibility in the sectors of education and healthcare, availability of actions for strengthening the national mechanism for advancement of women.</p>
	<p>14.2. Establishing cooperation network of “Women Resource Centres” in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from Article 30 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men” and paragraph 16 of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, as well as target results and indicators deriving therefrom referred to in subpoint 5.3 of the actions prescribed by “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050” serve as a benchmark therefor. The objective of implementation of the Action is building capacities of women, ensuring active participation thereof in public, political, economic and cultural processes occurring in the society, by establishing safe environment for women and providing the resources necessary for them.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Engagement of women living in marzes in different sectors of the public life is very low, and there is obviously a pronounced gender gap, the level of employment of women living in marzes is particularly low, they are not actively engaged in the decision-making processes in their communities.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>This Action envisages establishing and developing cooperation network of “Women Resource Centres” in 8 marzes of the Republic of Armenia, which would contribute to the development of personal and professional skills of women, enhancement of their capacities, active participation thereof in public, political, economic and cultural processes occurring in the society.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of cooperation network of “Women Resource Centres” in 8 marzes of the Republic of Armenia, which would be based on the implementation of training and other support programmes for the development of necessary skills and capacities of women.</p>
15	<p><u>15.1. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On the Seventh National Programme for Fight Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation for 2023-2026 and the List of Actions deriving therefrom” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On identification of and support to persons subjected to human trafficking and exploitation” and paragraph 15 of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The specified provisions of the National Programme will make the fight against trafficking and exploitation more inclusive and comprehensive, consolidating the powers of all stakeholders involved, thus contributing to the enhancement of capacities and raising of the level of qualification of professionals, more effective prevention of the phenomenon.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is considered to be the authorised body developing a policy and providing the main social-rehabilitation services, which coordinates also the inter-agency activities within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation. In the regular report of the US State Department the State is instructed to implement a series of actions to duly carry out the reforms of the sector and improve the positions of the State.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Improving the social-psychological rehabilitation services for persons subjected to trafficking and exploitation, sexual violence, provided by the State within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, introducing sustainable mechanisms for cooperation with inter-agency,</p>

international and public institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The adoption of the National Programme will ensure implementation of comprehensive measures within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation and more effective prevention of the phenomenon (presence of improved legislative framework, presence of active inter-agency cooperation with regard to the issue, presence of qualified specialists of the primary circle dealing with the issue, availability of greater number of disclosed cases, clarification of support and protection mechanisms).

15.2. Extending the social-rehabilitation services for persons subjected to human trafficking and exploitation

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On identification of and assistance to persons subjected to human trafficking and exploitation” and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 909-L of 4 June 2020 and paragraph 15 of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of implementation of the Action is improving the social-psychological rehabilitation services for persons subjected to trafficking and exploitation, sexual violence, provided by the State within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, raising public awareness within the framework of fight against the issue, improving the mechanisms for detection and identification of victims.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is considered to be the authorised body developing a policy and providing the main social-rehabilitation services, which coordinates also the inter-agency activities within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation. In the regular report of the US State Department the State is instructed to implement a series of actions to duly carry out the reforms of the sector and improve the positions of the State.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Improving the social-psychological rehabilitation services for persons subjected to trafficking and exploitation, sexual violence, provided by the State within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, introducing sustainable mechanisms for cooperation with inter-agency, international and public institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Availability of the extended system of services provided on the basis of individual needs assessment by specialised organisations providing support to persons subjected to human trafficking and exploitation, based on the introduction of mechanisms for social reintegration and independent organisation of own life.

16	<p>16.1. Expanding the types of support and services provided by support centres operating in all marzes and in the city of Yerevan to persons subjected to domestic violence, namely by adding new types of support for economic development and empowerment of women</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On prevention of domestic violence, protection of persons subjected to domestic violence and restoration of solidarity in the family” and paragraph 16 of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of implementation of the Action is expanding the types of support and services provided by support centres operating in all marzes and the city of Yerevan to persons subjected to domestic violence, programmes implemented thereby, thus aiming at introducing new types of support for economic development and empowerment of women.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is considered to be the authorised body developing a policy and providing the main social-rehabilitation services, which coordinates also the inter-agency activities within the framework of fight against domestic violence. The existing regulations are not sufficient to correspondingly respond to the fight against domestic violence and require additional solutions. Given the provisions provided for by the international conventions, the State must improve and expand the types of social-rehabilitation services, support.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the framework of implementation of the Action, comprehensive programmes will be developed with interested agencies and non-governmental and international organisations considered to be sectoral partners and will be introduced, which will be focused on reintegration of persons subjected domestic violence and introduction of mechanisms for organising own life independently.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of the extended system of services provided on the basis of individual needs assessment by specialised organisations providing support to persons subjected to human trafficking and exploitation, based on the introduction of mechanisms for social reintegration and independent organisation of own life.</p>
	<p><u>16.2. Adding shelter services for persons subjected to domestic violence</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On prevention of domestic violence, protection of persons subjected to domestic violence and restoration of solidarity in the family" and paragraph 16 of Subsection 4.6 of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia</p>

No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of implementation of the Action is increasing the number of shelters for and expanding the types of services provided to persons subjected to domestic violence.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, within the framework of fight against human trafficking and exploitation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is considered to be the authorised body developing a policy and providing the main social-rehabilitation services, which coordinates also the inter-agency activities within the framework of fight against domestic violence. The existing regulations are not sufficient to correspondingly respond to the fight against domestic violence, and additional solutions are required. According to the provisions provided for by the international conventions and domestic legislation, the State must properly ensure the process of provision of social-rehabilitation services rendered by shelters. Currently, 2 shelters (envisaged to provide a service to 60 persons annually) operate under the state funding, where women subjected to domestic violence, as well as children under their care receive shelter services provided for by law. It should be stressed that due to the limitation of resources, only those women subjected to domestic violence are transferred to the shelter, whose life is threatened, as in case of living together with the perpetrator, there may be cases of repeated violence; the location of operating shelters is confidential, and it operates under closed regime, *i.e.* the exit and entry of women transferred there are restricted, are carried out under the control of employees of the shelter. The process is based on the rationale that the perpetrator must not know the place of location of the person subjected to violence in order to prevent further persecution. The process of providing services of the operating shelter does not extend to women subjected to domestic violence, who have no desire to live with the perpetrator, left the house, where they lived together, have no place to go and live, nevertheless, they cannot be a beneficiary of the operating shelter, as the risk of being persecuted by the perpetrator, life- and security-related risk is low. In addition, the women of the above-mentioned target groups have stable employment, and in case of transfer to the operating shelter, they cannot enter and exit under open regime and go to work. Given the above-mentioned circumstances, the women of this target group actually need provision of a short-term shelter, but the State has no means and resources to provide a short-term shelter operating under open regime.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

As a result of cooperation with interested agencies and non-governmental and international organisations considered to be sectoral partners, carried out within the framework of implementation of the Action, the number of shelters for persons subjected to domestic violence will be increased and the services provided will be expanded. Comprehensive programmes will be developed and introduced, which will be focused on reintegration of persons subjected to domestic violence and introduction of mechanisms for organising own life independently.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Increasing the number of shelters for persons subjected to domestic violence, and availability of extended system for the services provided, based on the introduction of mechanisms for reintegration and independent organisation of own life.

17

17.1. Submitting the draft Strategy for Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action

Plan to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The draft is aimed at defining the new Strategy for Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan deriving therefrom, based on Article 86 of the Constitution (The main objectives of the state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres shall be as follows: ... (5) promoting birth and having children) and Subsection 4.1 (The Government will undertake the development of the new Strategy for Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the 2021-2026 Action Plan) of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The adoption of the new Strategy for Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan deriving therefrom is triggered by the current demographic situation of the Republic of Armenia, which, firstly, is related to low birth rate. According to the current birth rate indicators, even the simple reproduction of the population is not ensured, for which the birth rate is required to be 2.1 children. However, only copying with the simple reproduction (2-3 children in one family) cannot ensure expanded reproduction and secure significant increase in the birth rate, as in the coming years the small generation born in early 2000s will attain the age of marriage, the reproductive potential of which needs to be used to the maximum.

Thus, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining demographic stability it is necessary to not only ensure simple reproduction, but also expanded reproduction, drastically increase the number of families having at least 3 children and more, giving them certain guarantees.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In line with point 5.1 (Higher rate of natural increase of the population) of Section “5. Multi-child and secured family” of “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050”, it is envisaged to define the new Strategy for Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan deriving therefrom.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The new Strategy for Improvement of the Demographic Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan deriving therefrom will be defined.

17.2. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law ‘On state benefits’” to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The draft is aimed at improving the demographic situation, by designating benefit also for the parent taking care of a child under the age of 2 and to a

non-working parent, based on Article 86 of the Constitution (The main objectives of the state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres shall be as follows: ... (5) promoting birth ...) and Subsection 4.1 (The circle of beneficiaries receiving benefits for care for a child under the age of 2 will be expanded, at the expense of unemployed mothers, regardless of their place of record-registration (residence).) of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Law “On state benefits” prescribes the entitlement to a benefit for care for a child under the age of 2, the procedure for determining and paying the benefit, as well as the relations pertaining to termination and restoration of the right to receive the benefit for care, terminating and resuming the payment of the benefit for care, payment of the amount of the benefit for care unpaid.

Pursuant to the Law, the benefit is designated and paid to the parent in a leave for taking care of a child under the age of three, as well to the parent record-registered and actually residing at the address of a rural settlement, as prescribed by the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia.

For the purpose of mitigating the adverse trends in the development of demographic situation recorded in the previous time period and improving the demographic situation it is recommended to define entitlement to the benefit for the care also for the families, that are not salaried employees or parents living in villages, until the child attains the age of 2.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to prescribe that entitlement to the benefit for care is granted also to the parent of a child record-registered in the State Population Register of the Republic of Armenia, until the child attains the age of two.

Moreover, the benefit for care is designated and paid to a non-working parent, regardless of the fact that the benefit for care is designated and paid to the parent, as a salaried employee.

The data of the State Population Register on the record-registration (residence) of a parent and a child serve as a ground for designating the benefit for care for a non-working parent.

Taking into consideration the fact that non-working mothers are also granted maternity benefit for the period of being entitled to maternity leave, it is envisaged to designate the benefit for care for the non-working parent starting from the 1st of the month following the last day of the period of being entitled to maternity leave.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to expand, starting from 1 January 2023, the circle of beneficiaries receiving benefits for care for the child under the age of 2 (in relation to the care of children born on 1 January 2023 and beyond), at the expense of non-working mothers, regardless of their place of record-registration (residence), which will boost birth rate, establishing solid grounds and preconditions for further stable increase in the number of the population.

17.3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On designating and paying financial assistance to the third child and subsequent newborn children in the family” to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The Action aims at improving the demographic situation by designating and paying – with respect to the birth of the 3rd child and subsequent child in the family – state benefit in the amount of AMD 50000 per month to the newborn child in the family under the age of 6, based on Article 86 of the Constitution (The main objectives of the state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres shall be as follows: ... (5) promoting birth and having many children) and Subsection 4.1 (In the context of improvement of the demographic situation, a draft law will be developed, clearly stipulating the incentives for births and the social guarantees granted to multi-child families, including in the form of granting monthly financial assistance of AMD 50,000 to families for the third child and next children under the age of 6.) of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to the effective legal regulations of the Republic of Armenia, monetary assistance conditioned by the order of the child is granted only when the child is born, and it is lump-sum. The lump-sum childbirth benefit is granted in case of applying within 12 months after the child is born. The amount of the lump-sum childbirth benefit is conditioned by the order of the newborn child.

In fact, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia envisages no monetary assistance of regular nature for improving the demographic situation, conditioned by the order of the child.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In line with point 5.1 (High level of well-being of families having three and more children) of Section 5 “Multi-child and secured family” of “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050”, it is envisaged to designate and pay — in relation to the birth of the third and subsequent children in the family — monetary assistance in the amount of AMD 50000 per month to the newborn child, until the month the child attains the age of 6.

It is envisaged to designate the benefit, where the parent and children, including the newborn child, are record-registered in the State Population Register of the Republic of Armenia at the address of the place of residence in the Republic of Armenia and are in the Republic of Armenia as of the day of applying. The time limits for applying for the assistance, the procedure for applying therefor, the specifics of determining the order of the child, the time limits for designating the assistance, the grounds for refusing the assistance will also be prescribed.

The monetary assistance will be paid in a non cash form.

The grounds for terminating and restoring the right to assistance, as well as the grounds for terminating and renewing the payment will also be prescribed.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to prescribe a new type of monetary assistance, and financial assistance in the amount of AMD 50,000 will be monthly granted to the families for the 3rd and subsequent children under the age of 6 based on the record-registration of children born after 1

January 2022, which will boost birth rate, thus establishing solid grounds and preconditions for further stable increase in the number of population.

17.4. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2023-2026 State Support Programme for providing assistance to young rural families and families with children” to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The Action aims at establishing state programmes, within the framework of which state support will be provided to young rural families and families with children, based on Article 86 (The main objectives of the state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres shall be as follows: ... (5) promoting birth and having many children) and Article 146 of the Constitution, as well as Subsection 4.6 (Target programmes for state support to provide assistance to young rural families and families with children, including state support to activities generating income, will be carried out.) of Section 4 “Development of human capital” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Based on the current demographic situation in the Republic of Armenia, it is necessary to pay particular attention to solving the issue of increasing the birth rate in rural settlements, which will contribute to establishing and maintaining demographic stability.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of increasing the birth rate in rural settlements, it is recommended — in line with point 5.1 (Higher rate of natural increase of the population) of Section 5 “Multi-child and secured family” of “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050” — to adopt the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2023-2026 State Support Programme for providing assistance to young rural families and families with children”.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2023-2026 State Support Programme for providing assistance to young rural families and families with children” will clearly define the programmes that will be focused on improvement of the demographic situation particularly in rural settlements.

18 **18.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 665-N of 5 May 2011” to the Office of the Prime Minister**

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The Action aims at improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and benefit recipients, as well as optimising the process of designating (recalculating) pensions and benefits, based on point 4.6 of the Programme of the Government (For the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and persons receiving benefits, as well as improving the processes of designating and paying benefits, the legislation will be

improved) and part 9 of point 33 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state pensions” (the procedure for ..., designating (recalculating) the pension ... will be established by the Government).

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to part 9 of point 33 of the Law “On state pensions”, the procedure for recalculating the pension is established by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 665-N of 5 May 2011.

Pursuant to the effective legal regulations, the pension is recalculated based on the application and the required documents submitted personally by the pensioner to the territorial division.

For the purpose of optimising the processes of paying the pensions, it is recommended to introduce a process of recalculating the pension based on the on-line application.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, it is envisaged – in line with point 3.2 (Accessibility and high quality of public services) of Section "3. Effective and accountable management" of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050" – to reorganise the current procedures for recalculation.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to recalculate the pension also based on the application submitted on-line, by optimising the process of recalculation of pensions.

18.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 670-N of 5 May 2011” to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The Action aims at improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and benefit recipients, as well as optimising the process of payment of pensions and benefits, based on point 27 (For the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and persons receiving benefits, as well as improving the processes of designating and paying benefits, the legislation will be improved) of Subsection 4.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and part 9 of point 33 of the Law “On state pensions” (the procedure for ..., designating (recalculating) the pension ... will be established by the Government).

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to part 9 of point 33 of the Law “On state pensions”, the procedure for paying pension is established by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 670-N of 5 May 2011.

Pursuant to the effective legal regulations, the method of payment of the pension (benefit) or the organisation paying the pension (benefit) is selected

by the pensioner (benefit recipient), based on the application and the required documents submitted personally by the person to the territorial division.

For the purpose of optimising the processes of payment of the pension it is recommended to envisage a possibility of on-line submission by the employed pensions of an application for selecting the method of payment of the pension (benefit) or the organisation paying the pension (benefit).

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, it is envisaged to re-organise the current procedure for rendering decisions on the selection of the method of payment of the pension (benefit) and the organisation paying the pension (benefit).

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to optimise the process of payment of pensions and benefits, providing an opportunity also for on-line submission of an application for selecting the method of payment of the pension (benefit) or the organisation paying the pension (benefit).

18.3. Launching the subsystem for record-keeping of the amount of pension and benefits overpaid erroneously (in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia) and recovered to the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The Action aims at improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and benefit recipients, as well as optimising the process of designating, paying pensions and benefits, based on point 27 (For the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and persons receiving benefits, as well as improving the processes of designating and paying benefits, the legislation will be improved) of Subsection 4.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and part 22.1 the Law “On social assistance” (The Unified Social Service shall (11) maintain a database ...).

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, pensions and benefits are designated and paid through information system “Electronic pension”, on the basis of information available in the database of the state pension system.

There are cases in the law enforcement practice, when pensions and benefits are paid erroneously (in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia).

The procedure for charging back (recovering to the State Budget) pensions and benefits overpaid erroneously (in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia) is prescribed by the legislation.

The record-keeping of the amounts recovered to the State Budget is currently not automated.

For the purpose of improving the effectiveness of the sector management it is appropriate to introduce a subsystem for record-keeping of the amounts

of pensions and benefits overpaid erroneously (in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia)

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case the action has a co-implementing body, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, it is envisaged — in line with point 3.2 (Accessibility and high quality of public services) of Section “3. Effective and accountable management” of “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050” — to develop and introduce a subsystem for record-keeping of the amounts of pensions and benefits overpaid erroneously (in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia).

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to improve the quality of services provided to pensioners and benefit recipients, enhancing the effectiveness of the system for management of the field of pensions security, state benefits.

18.4. The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law “On state benefits” and “On making amendments and supplements to the Law “On benefits for temporary incapacity for work and maternity benefits”””” is adopted

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The draft aims at improving the process of designation and payment of the maternity benefit and ensuring addressability of the maternity benefit, based on Article 83 of the Constitution (Everyone shall, in accordance with law, have the right to social security in cases of maternity, ... sickness, ...) and point 27 (For the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to pensioners and persons receiving benefits, as well as improving the processes of designating and paying benefits, the legislation will be improved) of Subsection 4.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to the effective legal regulations, the maternity benefit is fully paid at the expense of the funds of the State Budget, based on the certificate for incapacity for work.

Moreover, pursuant to the Law “On benefits for temporary incapacity for work and maternity benefits”, the maternity benefit for a salaried employee is designated, calculated and paid by the employer. The amounts of the benefit subject to payment from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia are paid by the employer against the calculated income tax. Where the income tax calculated for the given month is not sufficient for payment of the amounts subject to payment from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, the employer pays the deficient part of the benefit from his or her own resources, which is compensated by the authorised body within a period of one month after submitting to the authorised body the statement of information approved by the tax body based on the statement of information submitted by the employer to the tax body under the procedure prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

	<p>Pursuant to the Law “On state benefits”, the maternity benefit is designated and paid to non-working persons by the Unified Social Service based on the certificate for incapacity for work submitted.</p> <p>It should be noted that in case of pregnancy and childbirth, the certificate for incapacity for work is issued by the medical organisation, where the pregnant women is record-registered.</p> <p>Thus, it follows that on the one hand, the amounts allocated from the funds of the State Budget are managed by the employer, and there may be certain speculations, and on the other hand, the administration of the process of designation of the maternity benefit is quite complex both for the employer and the pregnant woman.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged that the state body, <i>i.e.</i> the Unified Social Service must designate and pay the maternity benefit based on the data available in the certificate for incapacity for work, extracted from the electronic healthcare system, which will ensure more accurate accountability, as well as addressability of the benefit.</p> <p>In addition, in case of automatically extracting from the electronic healthcare system the data necessary for designation of the maternity benefit, the administration of the process of designation of the benefit will improve, and it will also be possible to designate the benefit on-line, without submitting a document.</p> <p>The Action is possible to implement solely in the event of extracting data from the electronic healthcare system by use of that system maintained by the Ministry of Healthcare.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to improve the process of designation of the maternity benefit and ensure addressability; the maternity benefit will be designated and paid by the Unified Social Service based on the data of the electronic healthcare system.</p>
19	<p><u>19.1 The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1734-N of 30 December 2010, No 1489-N of 26 December 2013 and No 1566-N of 29 December 2015” is adopted</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action aims at ensuring regular increase of the amounts of pensions and benefits, based on paragraph 2 (By 2026 the Government will take steps to equal the minimum pension amount and the average pension amount to the costs of food and consumer baskets, to eliminate extreme poverty) of Subsection 4.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and Articles 15,16, 21 and 23 of the Law “On state pensions” and Article 6 of the Law “On state benefits”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to the Law “On state pensions”, the amount of employment pension is calculated against the amount of the basic pension and the value of the</p>

work record for one year (taking into consideration the duration of the work record).

The amount of the military pension is calculated against the amount of the basic pension and the value of the service record for one year (taking into consideration the duration of the service record).

For the purpose of calculating the amounts of employment and military pensions, the amount of basic pensions, the amount of the minimum pension, the value of the work record for one year, the value of the service record for one year, as well as the amounts of pensions in the cases prescribed by Articles 21 and 23 of the Law are prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1734-N of 30 December 2010.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Law “On state benefits”, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1489-N of 26 December 2013 prescribes the amounts of old-age, disability and survivor’s benefit, and Decision No 1566-N of 29 December 2015 — the amount of the benefit for care for a child under the age of 2.

Accordingly, for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the above-mentioned provision of the Programme of the Government, *i.e.* increasing the amounts of pensions and benefits, it is necessary to make amendments to Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1734-N of 30 December 2010 and No 1489-N of 26 December 2013, increasing the amount of the minimum pension, the amounts of basic pensions, the amount of the minimum pension, the values of works and service records for one year, the amounts of benefits.

Moreover, it is envisaged to differentiate the amounts of old-age, disability, survivor’s benefits, and in case of disability benefit – also to take into consideration the disability group.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In 2021, the monthly cost of the food basket at the average current prices of the II quarter constitutes AMD 31900, the cost of the minimum consumer basket — AMD 59015.

Pursuant to point 4.6 of the Programme of the Government, by 2026 the Government will take steps to equalise the minimum pension amount and the average pension amount to the costs of the food and consumer baskets, to eliminate extreme poverty.

- (1) In case of annual average inflation rate of 3 per cent, in 2026 the monthly cost of the food basket will constitute AMD 36981, the cost of the minimum consumer basket — AMD 68415.

Accordingly, according to the preliminary calculation, it is necessary to ensure such increase of the amounts of pensions and benefits that in 2026, the average pension constitutes AMD 68000, and the minimum pension and benefits — AMD 37000.

This implies that as compared to 2021, the average monthly amount of employment pensions in 2026 must increase for more than AMD 24500 (68000-43500) or for 56 per cent (68000/43500). As compared to 2021, the minimum pension and the amount of benefits in 2026 must increase for more than AMD 10500 (37000-26500) or for 40 per cent (37000/26500).

Taking into consideration the fact that the expenditures envisaged by the 2022-2024 MTEF of the Republic of Armenia with respect to the sector of pension cannot ensure the annual amount of the mentioned increase; it is envisaged that the increase of pensions and benefits will be made

within 4 years, i.e. in 2023-2026.

- (2) The monthly cost of food basket based on the average current price of the II quarter of 2022 constituted AMD 39066.0, the minimum cost of consumer basket — AMD 72272.1 (cost of food for one person consumed during a month calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 44431.3 and AMD 82198.0 (calculated by ARMSTAT having regard to the composition, structure and energy of food developed by the Ministry of Healthcare).
- (3) In case of annual average inflation rate of 3 per cent, in 2023 the monthly cost of food basket will constitute AMD 40238, the minimum cost of the consumer basket — AMD 74440 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 45764 and AMD 84664 (calculated by ARMSTAT having regard to the composition, structure and energy of food developed by the Ministry of Healthcare).

Accordingly, in order to ensure for 2026 the accessibility of programme indicator it is necessary to ensure in 2023 an increase in pensions and benefits so that in 2023 the average pension constitutes around AMD 50920, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 34318 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 52574, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 35424.

- (4) In case of annual average inflation rate of 3 per cent in 2024, the monthly cost of food basket in 2024 will constitute AMD 41445, the minimum cost of the consumer basket — AMD 76673 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 47137 and AMD 87204 (calculated by ARMSTAT having regard to the composition, structure and energy of food developed by the Ministry of Healthcare).

Accordingly, in order to ensure, for 2026 the accessibility of programme indicator it is necessary to ensure in 2024 an increase in pensions and benefits so that in 2024 the average pension constitutes around AMD 59576, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 37269 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 63509, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 39710.

- (5) In case of annual average inflation rate of 3 per cent in 2025, the monthly cost of food basket in 2025 will constitute AMD 42688, the minimum cost of the consumer basket — AMD 78974 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 48551 and AMD 89820 (calculated by ARMSTAT having regard to the composition, structure and energy of food developed by the Ministry of Healthcare).

	<p>Accordingly, in order to ensure for 2026 the accessibility of programme indicator it is necessary to ensure in 2025 an increase in pensions and benefits so that in 2025 the average pension constitutes around AMD 69704, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 40474 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 76719, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 44515.</p> <p>(6) In case of annual average inflation rate of 3 per cent in 2026, the monthly cost of food basket in 2026 will constitute AMD 43969, the minimum cost of the consumer basket — AMD 81343 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 50008 and AMD 92515 (calculated by ARMSTAT having regard to the composition, structure and energy of food developed by the Ministry of Healthcare).</p> <p>Accordingly, in order to ensure for 2026 the accessibility of programme indicator it is necessary to ensure an increase in pensions and benefits so that in 2026 the average pension constitutes around AMD 81554, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 43955 (calculated according to the methodology of the World Bank having regard to the actually formed consumer basket based on the results of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey of Households conducted by ARMSTAT in households) or AMD 92676, the minimum pensions and benefits — about AMD 49901.</p> <p>The increase of amounts of pensions and state benefits are possible where necessary resources are provided by the State Budget of the relevant year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to ensure in 2026, as compared to 2021, increase for 56 per cent of the average amount of pensions, considering the value of the minimum consumer basket as a target of the average monthly amount of the pension. The amounts of the minimum pension and benefits will increase, considering the cost of food consumption basket as a target.</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to ensure in 2021-2025 an increase in the average and minimum amounts of pensions so that in 2023-2026 in case of annual average inflation rate of three per cent the accessibility of target indicators will be ensured in 2026.</p>
20	<p><u>20.1. Submitting the draft Law “On making amendments to the Law ‘On state pensions’” to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action aims at improving the terms of the amounts of military pensions, based on point 83 of the Constitution (Everyone shall, in accordance with law, have the right to social security in cases of maternity, having many children, sickness, disability, accidents at work, need of care, loss of bread-winner, old-age, unemployment, loss of employment, and in other cases) and Subsection 1.3 (Increase of social protection of military servicemen and their families has always been and will be in the focus of the Government; thus, the Government will add guarantees for material and social security for military servicemen) of Section 1 “Security and foreign policy” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, through the amendments provided for in the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration of persons holding state positions and positions of the State Service”, the adoption of which will prescribe new rates.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The procedure for calculation of military pensions is prescribed by the Law “On state pensions”.</p> <p>Pursuant to the effective legal regulations, the military pension is calculated considering also the coefficient and the service record prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration of persons holding state positions and positions of the State Service”.</p> <p>Accordingly, in case the system for remuneration of the military servant is reviewed by the legislation, it would be necessary to refer also to the procedure for calculation of the military pension.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, where amendments are made to the Laws “On the military service and the status of a military servant” and “On remuneration of persons holding state position and positions in the State Service” and the system of remuneration of military servants is reviewed, amendments to the Law “On state pensions” are also envisaged.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to review the procedure for calculation of the military pension, given the changes in the system of remuneration of military servants.</p>
21	<p><u>21.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia</u> “On approving the programme for <u>providing consultation for the purpose of improving the credit history of persons having bad credit history due to agricultural credits having previously taken out and not repaid</u>” to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>A great number of persons having agricultural loans in the Republic are considered to be the persons that have bad credit history due to loans previously taken out and not repaid, which does not allow to get new loans and develop own agricultural households. The objective of the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia is to have a programme for providing consultation in order to improve the credit histories of persons having bad credit history.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Persons having bad credit history due to agricultural loans having been previously taken out and not repaid do not have an opportunity to develop their agricultural households as they are unable to get a new loan.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The programme for providing consultation will recommend solutions to persons having bad credit history who will be able to acquire new loans and</p>

	<p>develop their agricultural households.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of the programme for providing consultation in order to improve the credit histories of persons having bad credit history due to agricultural loans having been previously taken out and not repaid.</p>
22	<p><u>22.1. Introducing monitoring and assessment (MA) system for programmes implemented and services provided in the sector of social protection</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from that fact that about 30 per cent of expenditures of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia are geared down to the sector of social protection, therefore major importance is attached to the accurate assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes included in the State Budget, and for the implementation thereof it is necessary to have a complete monitoring and assessment system, the objective of which is identifying the existing issues to establish the priorities of the policy conducted in the sector of social protection, increasing the level of effectiveness and addressability of the programmes implemented, assessing the degree of satisfaction with the programmes of stakeholders, targeted use of the resources of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and reduction of corruption risks.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>About 30 per cent of expenditures of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia are geared down to the sector of social protection, therefore importance is attached to the accurate assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes included in the State Budget, their cost-effectiveness, which determines the necessity for the programme/ action.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the existing issues it is necessary to introduce a monitoring and assessment (MA) system for programmes implemented and services provided.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The introduction of monitoring and assessment system for programmes implemented and services provided in the sector of social protection will allow conducting monitoring and assessment in the respective sectors, based on the recommendations made upon the results whereof legal acts ensuring the implementation of programmes will be elaborated, the level of effectiveness and addressability of those programmes will be increased, provision of services relevant to the assessed needs of beneficiaries will be ensured, as well as possible corruption risks will be prevented. It is indicative that by the end of 2026, all the programmes of the sector of social protection included in the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and the actions included therein will be assessed.</p>
23	<p><u>23.1 Submission of the draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2025-2035 Strategy for settlement of the issues of integration and reintegration of migration policy of the Republic of Armenia and the Action Plan deriving therefrom” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</u></p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Article 33 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum” serves as a ground for implementation of the action. It also stems from the commitments envisaged by Section 4.2 of 2021-2026 Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVO-002-N of 26 August 2021. The goal of the Action is unification and clarification of integration and reintegration policy for the upcoming decade, as well as adoption of the execution roadmap for the upcoming years. Part 4 of Article 31 and part 10 of Article 34 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum” serves as a ground for implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>No comprehensive policy aimed at reintegration of migrants returning to Armenia is currently in place, also there are no explicit functions prescribed for competent state bodies. On the other hand, growth in the number of foreigners residing in Armenia for various purposes is noticed during the recent years, and thus our state is transitioning from being exclusively the country of origin for immigrants to the country hosting immigrants. To address concerns of those persons, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Concept Paper on the policy on integration of persons recognised as refugees and having received asylum in the Republic of Armenia, as well as the long-term migrants adopted by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 28 of 21 July 2016, and by Protocol Decision No 8 of 23 February 2017 — the Action Plan aimed at implementation of the Concept Paper was approved. However, the scope of this Plan is limited from the perspective of both target groups (refugees, asylum seekers) and reintegration support (teaching Armenian language, holding civil orientation trainings, solving the housing problem).</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia «On approving the 2021-2031 Strategy for settlement of integration and reintegration issues of the migration policy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2021-2025 Action Plan deriving therefrom” was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister in June 2021 and is currently in the processing stage. Taking note of the circumstance that the draft is still in the consideration stage, the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has proposed to revise the validity terms of the draft Strategy and Action Plan, replacing 2021-2031 with 2025-2035 and 2021-2025 with 2025-2026, respectively.</p> <p>Based on amendments and supplements to the Law No HO-457-N of 16 December 2022 “On the structure and activities of the Government” made in response to Instruction of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia 02/08.3/1442-2023 of 17 January 2023, the powers for elaboration and implementation of Government policy in the field of integration or reintegration of refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, displaced people, long-term migrants and citizens forced to return to the Republic of Armenia were reserved to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2025-2035 Strategy for settlement of integration and reintegration issues of the migration policy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2025-2026 Action Plan deriving therefrom” has been adopted.</p>
	<p><u>24.1 Implementation of programmes aimed at reintegration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia</u></p>

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The promotion of repatriation, as well as state support to the reintegration process of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia are among priorities of state policy of the Republic of Armenia. Repatriation is one of the primary issues of pan-Armenian agenda, it is highlighted within the contexts of tackling the demographic challenges existing in the country, as well as using the human and financial potential of those having returned to the benefit of the social and economical development of Armenia. Implementation of programmes aimed at reintegration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia also derives from commitments envisaged by Section 4.2 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhO-002-N of 26 August 2021. The objective of implementation of the Action is support in consolidating the potential of Armenians within Armenia and in ensuring the cultivation of that potential.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 336-L of 19 March 2020 “The state programme on primary support in reintegration of returning citizens (including citizens who are forcibly returned) to the Republic of Armenia” has been approved, according to which returning citizens eligible for programme criteria shall be provided compensation for housing fees for a duration of 6 months, in the monthly amount of AMD 60 thousand. This is the one and only programme implemented at state level. All other programmes aimed at reintegration of returning citizens are carried out by non-governmental organisations, primarily with the funding of International Institutions and countries responsible for returning the migrants, occasionally with participation of specific state governance bodies. Such programmes, however, are not ongoing. The issue of coordinating the efforts of multiple institutions toward this goal remains open, which has a detrimental effect on activities and cooperation of both state bodies, as well as international organisations and non-governmental organisations operating in that sector. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Economy, Armenian Office of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

A task is set to eliminate the following obstacles hindering the effective reintegration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia: inadequate support regarding transfer of their businesses to Armenia or establishment of new businesses in Armenia, limited access to comprehensive information concerning residing in Armenia and impossibility to obtain it on “one window” principle, lack of a unified platform for returning citizens, challenges related to access to healthcare system, problems related to education of school-age children in the Armenian language, other obstacles.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Programmes aimed at reintegration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia, including those funded by the state and co-funded, are being implemented.

Ministry of Healthcare	
NN	RATIONALE
1.	<p>1.1 Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the concept paper on comprehensive health insurance" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of the Annex to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister No 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by adopting the decision of the Government "On approving the concept paper on comprehensive health insurance" for the purpose of introducing the comprehensive health insurance in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The mechanism for introducing the state order serves more to the maintenance of the medical organisations, rather than as a means aimed at ensuring the necessary quality and volume of the services being provided to the resident.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Adoption of Decision of the Government "On approving the concept paper on comprehensive health insurance", which will enshrine the main principles of the comprehensive health insurance, Packages of the services, the actions for introduction of insurance and the introduction periods thereof.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The financial accessibility to and protection of the basic medical services for the population, reduction of the catastrophic expenditures for the medical services and reduction of the number of population impoverishing as a consequence thereof, increasing the level of effectiveness and purposefulness of the amounts spent in the field of healthcare will be ensured, the quality rates of the medical aid will be improved.</p>
	<p>1.2. Submitting the draft Law "On comprehensive medical health insurance" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister No 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at stipulating the legal grounds through introducing the comprehensive health insurance.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On insurance and insurance activities" and Law of the Republic of Armenia "On compulsory insurance of the liabilities arising from the use of motor vehicles" regulating the field of insurance, are in force in the Republic of Armenia, and there is no legislative regulation on comprehensive medical health insurance.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to supplement and regulate the field of health insurance by adopting a law.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The adoption of the Law "On comprehensive medical health insurance" will provide the opportunity to introduce the comprehensive medical health insurance in the Republic of Armenia, which will provide every insured citizen in need of medical aid and service with the opportunity to use the Package of the healthcare services irrespective of their sex, age, place of residence and social status.</p>
	<p>1.3. Establishing a fund for comprehensive health insurance and its management board, elaborating a package of sub-legislative regulatory legal acts regulating the activities of the latter, adopting sub-legislative acts ensuring introduction of comprehensive health insurance</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at forming a public structure — Comprehensive Health Insurance Foundation — established by the State operating under the principle of unified buyer/payer for the purpose of introducing Comprehensive health insurance in the Republic of Armenia which will ensure the formation of the Unified Buyer System and will provide all the groups of the population with the Package of the main services by using the allocations made from the State Budget to the field of healthcare and the amounts collected through insurance premiums, as well as the implementation of the functions of the strategic procurement of medical services. To regulate the activity of the Comprehensive Health Insurance Foundation, the elaboration of the Package of the necessary secondary regulatory legal acts, adoption of the secondary legislative Documents are necessary.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The process of organising the medical aid and services currently operating free of charge and under privileged conditions guaranteed by the state is carried out through the Ministry of Healthcare (in particular, state healthcare agency) and is both buyer, and client.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To form a public structure—Comprehensive Health Insurance Foundation—established by the state operating under the principle of unified buyer/payer for the purpose of introducing Comprehensive health insurance in the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Comprehensive Health Insurance Foundation will be formed which will ensure the functions of the strategic procurement of the medical services.</p>
	<p>1.4. Elaborating an automated system for assessment of the Package of the main medical services, assessing the Packages of the main services through actuarial calculations and projections.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at the automation of the assessment process of the Packages of the main medical services and exclusion— to the extent possible— of the subjective functions as a result thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The assessment of the Packages of the medical aid and services currently operating free of charge and under privileged conditions guaranteed by the state is carried out by the employees of separate subdivisions of the Ministry of Healthcare on the basis of the data exported from Armed System and collected from medical organisations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate and introduce an Automated System for assessment of the Packages of the main medical services for the purpose of making projections on the basis of actuarial calculations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the introduction of the Automated System for assessment of the Packages of the main medical services, projections on the basis of actuarial calculations will be automatically made with regard to financial expenses, inclusion of the necessary services in the main Package of services, various risks.</p>
	<p>1.5. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the unified methodology of prices for medical care and services, the procedure for the establishment and activities of a commission for regulation of the prices of medical aid and services, as well as the procedure for monitoring and review and the formats for collection of necessary data"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at the adoption of one unified methodology for calculation of the prices of the medical aid and services, formation of the commission for regulation of the prices of the services, as well as the adoption of the procedures for the activity and organisation of the works.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is no unified procedure for calculating the prices of the medical aid and services currently operating, the prices are calculated by different methodologies, as a result whereof prices considerably different from each other are often approved for the same service.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate and introduce a unified methodology for the prices of medical aid and services upon the Order of the Minister of Healthcare, form a commission for regulation of the prices of medical aid and services, as well as adopt procedures for monitoring and review of the prices of medical services which will take into consideration the development of the healthcare technologies and Changes of the actual expenses.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>In case of adopting one unified methodology for calculating the prices of the medical aid and services, the price calculations of medical services will be regulated, the same services will not differ much in terms of prices, which will have its positive influence on the market of services and it will become more projectable for the population.</p>
	<p>1.6. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the automated information system for calculation of the prices of medical aid and services and the prices of services included in the package of the main services"</p> <p>1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at elaborating and introducing an automated information system for calculating the prices of medical aid and services after adopting one unified methodology for calculation of the prices of medical aid and services.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is no unified procedure for calculating the prices of the medical aid and services currently operating, the prices are calculated by different methodologies, as a result whereof prices considerably different from each other are often approved for the same service.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate and introduce an automated information system for calculation of the prices of medical aid and services on the basis of the unified methodology for the prices of medical aid and services upon the order of the Minister of Healthcare.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The price calculations of medical services on the basis of one unified methodology for calculating the prices of medical aid and services will be carried out on an automatic basis which will exclude the subjective aspect of the process and will accelerate the process of calculating the service</p>

	prices which currently constitutes around 3.5 thousand services with regard to the state order.
	<p>1.7. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the competition procedure for procurement of medical services"</p> <p>1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at elaborating and introducing a competition procedure for the procurement of medical aid and services, which will increase the quality of the service provision, availability and accessibility.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The process of procurement of medical aid and services currently operating is carried out upon the "one person" principle, and there is no competition principle.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate and introduce a competitive procedure for the procurement of medical aid and services upon the Order of the Minister of Healthcare.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The procurements of the Packages of medical aid and services under competitive procedure will increase the quality of the service provision, availability and accessibility. As a result, the ratio of private expenses in general health care expenses will be reduced by 40%.</p>
2.	<p>2.1 Ongoing implementation of the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the 2019-2023 Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Parenteral Viral Hepatitis"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, sub-point 2 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is important from the perspective of the necessity of fighting against parenteral hepatitis among the most common communicable diseases of social significance, epidemiological control, prevention, organisation and implementation of the development of personnel potential for the purpose of declining the morbidity from the mentioned infections and mortality in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Parenteral hepatitis is the most common communicable disease of social significance in the Republic of Armenia and has considerable epidemic potential, wide coverage and considerable socio-economic burden. The activities of fighting against and preventing the hepatitis in the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia are performed mainly on the basis of the fight against the communicable diseases and general approaches, but the risks of their emergence are special with unique functions of Transmission and peculiarities of spread, as well as often with developing serious complications /Liver cirrhosis, primary cancer/. Therefore, defining effective actions for fighting against hepatitis is very important in terms of improving the epidemiological control system of the disease, as well as controlling the severe complications caused as a result of the latter.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Countering the hepatitis will be effective in case of applying complex and coordinated actions for fighting. Importance is particularly attached to the annual inclusion of 1000 persons with Hepatitis C in the treatment plan and provision of medicine free of charge to the patients within the scope of this plan.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Prevention of parenteral hepatitis, reduction of the levels of morbidity and death rate in the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>2.2 Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the 2022-2026 Action Plan for Combating HIV/AIDS"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, Article 2 of the Law "On prevention of disease caused by human immunodeficiency virus", sub-point 2 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The current five-year state target programme for HIV/AIDS expires in 2021, which is the basis of the necessity for elaborating a new five-year programme and approving in accordance with the relevant legal act.</p> <p>The implementation of the Actions is important as far as the necessity of fighting against HIV/AIDS among the most common communicable diseases of social significance, epidemiological control, dissemination of knowledge on preventing those diseases among population, introducing diagnostic, optimal medical, human-centered systems, development, organisation and implementation of personnel potential is concerned for the purpose of reducing the morbidity and mortality of the mentioned infection in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>HIV/AIDS is one of the common communicable diseases of social significance in the Republic of Armenia. HIV/AIDS is limited to HIV-vulnerable groups, however, among the cases recorded in recent years the cases of heterosexually transmitted disease outweigh, particularly among the population leaving for other countries for seasonal jobs abroad and their partners, which causes serious challenges for this very group of the population within the sense of the necessity of elaborating effective services to prevent the infection. The list of the 2017-2021 Targeted State Programme and Priority Actions for preventing HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Armenia was adopted under Protocol No 25 of the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 15 June 2017. It is currently necessary to elaborate a new programme for further years.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>Countering HIV/AIDS will be effective in case of applying complex and coordinated actions for fighting. Importance is particularly attached to establishment of systems of human-centred outpatient services for controlling, preventing, diagnosing and treating the infection, development of the personnel potential, public awareness actions, dissemination of knowledge among the vulnerable groups of population aimed at preventing the diseases, co-operation both with the inter-agency, as well as community, non-governmental and international organisations by ensuring a legal framework for the implementation thereof.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Prevention of HIV/AIDS, reduction of the levels of morbidity and death rate in the Republic of Armenia.</p>
3.	<p>3.1. Implementing actions for fighting against malignant neoplasms, providing medicine free of charge</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 4 and 5 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity of preventing malignant neoplasms among the most common non-communicable diseases, early detection and effective organisation of medical aid and services for the purpose of reducing the mortality from malignant neoplasms in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The international statistics attest that around 12 million cases of cancer morbidity and around 8 million cases of mortality are recorded worldwide annually. It is projected that the number of new cases may reach 27 million by 2030, and that of the deaths—17 million. 70% of deaths from malignant neoplasms occur in countries with low and average income (WHO, Bulletin of February 2017). It should be mentioned that in the course of next two decades the number of cases of cancer is projected to increase further by around 70% (Bulletin, WHO, February 2017) which will become an additional burden for the healthcare system by requiring to undertake additional measures for raising the effectiveness of treating the patients. At the same time, 75 million people annually live 5 and more years after being diagnosed with cancer. Thus, the increase in numbers of cancer is an irrefutable reality both in the whole world, and in Armenia.</p> <p>Rates of morbidity, prevalence and mortality of malignant neoplasms recorded in Armenia, international statistics and predictive tendencies of mortality, as well as emphasising the importance of the sector of oncology raised the necessity to approve the action plan of fighting against malignant neoplasms of the Minister of Healthcare No 1126-L of 7 April 2021, which is aimed at early detection and prevention of further development of malignant neoplasms among the population. The implementation of the Actions is very important from the perspective of reducing the morbidity and mortality conditioned by malignant neoplasms in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of activities of introducing the actions for fighting against malignant neoplasms it is envisaged to prevent malignant neoplasms through public awareness and continuous vaccinations, early detection of malignant neoplasms through implementing screening programmes for</p>

	<p>early detection of breast cancer, prevention and early detection of cervical cancer and colorectal cancer. It is also envisaged to introduce epidemiological control system, particularly establishment of register of malignant neoplasms, as well as provision of optimal treatment of patients having malignant neoplasms and a number of other actions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Due to providing medicine free of charge it is projected to reduce the rate of mortality from malignant neoplasms by 2.5% at the end of implementation of actions, improve the rate of early detection by 5%, improve viability rates for 5 years and 10 years by 25% and 10%, respectively.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Actions it is expected to provide the population with coverage of 90% access to quality and affordable healthcare services and necessary medicine for outpatient treatment by 2025.</p>
	<p>3.2. Starting from 2022, provide the expensive "Trastuzumab solution 600mg/5ml subcutaneous injection" medicine of the new generation to patients with the HER positive sub-type in the 1st-3rd stages of diagnosis of oncologic disease, particularly breast cancer</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 4 and 5 of point 4.5 of the Government of the Programme of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is important with regard to the free-of-charge provision of expensive "Trastuzumab solution 600mg/5ml subcutaneous injection" medicine of the new generation to patients with the HER positive sub-type in the 4th stage of diagnosis of breast cancer, as well as with regard to the quality of life of around 200 patients with reduction of the level of mortality and extension of up to 5 years of viability and lifespan.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2020, around 195 patients with the HER positive sub-type in stages 1, 2 and 3 of diagnosis of breast cancer, have been provided with expensive "Trastuzumab solution 600mg/5ml subcutaneous injection" medicine of the new generation, and patients with the HER positive sub-type in the 4th stage of diagnosis of breast cancer are not provided with medicine for the reason of insufficiency of financial resources, as a result whereof the lifespan and viability of the patients reduces and the level of mortality increases.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Starting from 2022-2024, provide free of charge the expensive "Trastuzumab solution 600mg/5ml subcutaneous injection" medicine of the new generation to patients with the HER positive sub-type in the 1st-3rd stages of diagnosis of oncologic disease, particularly breast cancer.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improving the quality of life of around 205 patients, reducing the levels of mortality and extending up to 5 years of viability and lifespan.</p>
4.	<p>4.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government "On making amendments to decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 642-N of 30</p>

May 2019"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 4 and 5 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

It is envisaged to make amendments and supplements in Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 642-N of 30 May 2019. The Draft will recommend adding in Annex No 2 of Decision 4 new diseases and symptoms, as well as reviewing, expanding the list of medicine envisaged for treatment of 12 already included diseases and increasing the number of medicine that are being acquired.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, only 12 diseases are included in the lists of the above-mentioned diseases, in case of existence whereof the state provides medicine free of charge, as well as medicine included in the classic guidelines for treatment of the diseases already included is acquired, and the involvement of the medicine of the new generation is low enough by taking into consideration the insufficiency of financial resources. At the same time, the number of beneficiaries — conditioned by the growth of mortality — grows annually by around 12%, which, in its turn, gives rise to the necessity of increasing the quantity of medicine being acquired. For instance, in accordance with the statistics, the morbidity of diabetes mellitus among the population of the Republic of Armenia increases considerably per year and constitutes 77307 patients as of 2017, 83535 patients as of 2019, 84833 patients as of 2020, 91918 patients as of 2021. The medicine necessary for the new diseases and symptoms being envisaged have never been provided before by the state and around 350 beneficiaries, which also include children, either are not provided with treatment, or they are provided with incomplete treatment because of the lack of financial resources.

Around 200 350 beneficiaries will be provided with 100% of medicine, in case of existence whereof the medicine is provided free of charge, 12 will turn into 16, due to which it is expected to ease the burden of hospitals, prevent the progress of the disease, reduce the rates of disability and mortality by around 4%; early detection and timely treatment of some diseases gives the patients the opportunity to live their life to the fullest and without further complications.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Currently, the above-mentioned lists include medicine included in classic guidelines for treatment, and the involvement of the medicine of the new generation is low enough by taking into consideration the insufficiency of financial resources.

At the same time, the number of beneficiaries — conditioned by the growth of mortality — grows annually by around 12%, which, in its turn, gives rise to the necessity of increasing the quantity of medicine being acquired. For instance, in accordance with the statistics, the morbidity of diabetes mellitus among the population of the Republic of Armenia increases considerably per year and constitutes 77307 patients as of 2017, 83535 patients as of 2019, 84833 patients as of 2020, 91918 patients as of 2021.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Around 200 350 beneficiaries will be provided with 100% of medicine, in case of existence whereof the medicine is provided free of charge, 12 will turn into 16, due to which it is expected to ease the burden of hospitals, prevent the progress of the disease, reduce the rates of disability and mortality by around 4%, since early detection and timely treatment of the diseases gives the patients the opportunity to live their life to the fullest and without further complications. Moreover, the increase in the level of providing medicine of the new generation, continuous, uninterrupted, free-of-charge allocation contributes to the increase in the effectiveness of the treatment, improvement of the life quality, reduction of the rate of complications caused by and mortality of the side effects of medicine. For instance, despite the fact that the morbidity of diabetes mellitus increases annually, the mortality rate of diabetes among the population in the Republic of Armenia constituted 5% in 2010, 4.6% in 2015, 2% in 2018-2019, and 1.3% in 2020. Providing the patients having diabetes mellitus with medicine of the new generation by 100% contributes to the reduction of mortality.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to provide the population with coverage of 90% access to quality and affordable healthcare services and necessary medicine for outpatient treatment by 2026.</p>
	<p>4.2. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On making amendments to the Order of the Minister of Healthcare No 56-N of 28 July 2021"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 4 and 5 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and part 2 of Article 8 of the Law "On medicine".</p> <p>In 2023, it is envisaged to implement activities of reviewing, revising the lists of essential medicines in the Republic of Armenia, bringing into compliance with the model list of WHO and register of the registered medicine of the Republic of Armenia. Due to the action, the level of medicine provision to 220 000 beneficiaries included in the list of social or special groups of the population under Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 642-N of 30 May 2019 will increase by 80%, the life quality will improve and the financial burden allocated to medicine by patients will ease.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The "List of Essential Medicines" of the Republic of Armenia is revised and approved by Order of the Minister of Healthcare No 56-N of 28 July 2021. The list is reviewed and replenished with new doses and dosage forms, names of new medicine were not added taking into consideration the insufficiency of financial resources. It should be mentioned that the persons having sustained injuries during the war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Artsakh on 27 September 2020 have been included under Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 642-N of 30 May 2019, including military servants and persons having participated in the war without the mobilisation call-up, the provision of the treatment whereof requires medicine which is not included in the current list. As a result, there is an incomplete provision of medicine and decrease in the effectiveness of treatment, and complaints by the beneficiaries.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The "List of Essential Medicines" of the Republic of Armenia is revised and approved by Order of the Minister of Healthcare No 56-N of 28 July 2021. The list is reviewed and replenished with new doses and dosage forms, names of new medicine were not added taking into consideration the insufficiency of financial resources.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of reviewing, revising the "List of Essential Medicines" of the Republic of Armenia envisaged for 2023, the activities of bringing into compliance with the model list of WHO and register of medicine registered in the Republic of Armenia, the list will be revised with names of new medicine, which will contribute to the increase in the treatment effectiveness and improvement of life quality, 80% increase in the level of medicine provision to the 220.000 beneficiaries included in the list of social or special groups of the population. Reviewing and revising the list is implemented taking as a basis Decision of the Government No 1178-N "On defining the standards and procedure for choosing the essential medicines" of 28 September 2017. As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to provide the population with coverage of 90% access to quality and affordable healthcare services and necessary medicine for outpatient treatment by 2025.</p>
5.	<p>5.1 Introducing a screening programme for early detection of colorectal cancer</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the screening programme for early detection of colorectal cancer stems from sub-point 2 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at the prevention and early detection of the colorectal cancer among the risk groups of the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Screening of colorectal cancer is not implemented in the Republic of Armenia, as well as the referral rate thereof to medical institutions is lower, as a result whereof, the disease is revealed in the last stages which causes complications of the treatment process. In 2017 and 2018, the morbidity rate of colorectal cancer in the Republic of Armenia constituted 24.1 and 25.2 per 100 000 people, and the mortality — 17.6 and 16.9 person, accordingly. The highest rates of morbidity (82% of cases) were recorded among age groups between 60-64, as well as groups aged 65 and over. The number of cases of late detection is high in the Republic of Armenia, particularly, they constituted around 63% in 2018. The morbidity of colorectal cancer also tends to increase among people under the age of 50.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the action it is envisaged to implement consultations among the risk groups of the population by the healthcare workers of the primary healthcare unit, testing among the risk groups of population for the purpose of determining the blood hidden in the faeces, conducting colonoscopic-pathomorphological examinations, when necessary.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to increase the early detection of colorectal cancer, reduce the mortality rate, maintain the quality of life. The analysis of the outcome of the programme will provide the opportunity to consider the necessity of further expanding the risk groups of population subject to screening. At the same time, the indexed rate of premature mortality resulting from 4 most common non-communicable diseases is expected to reduce up to 0.9 by 2025.</p>
	<p>5.2. To continue and expand the coverage of women in the PAP-smear tests for cervical cancer</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 3 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The mortality structure of most common non-communicable diseases (NCD) in Armenia resembles the mortality pattern of the European Region. The burden of mortality of non-communicable diseases in the general mortality structure of the population constitutes about 80%, moreover, the portion of malignant neoplasms constitutes 20.0%; prevention of the non-communicable diseases annually increasing in the Republic is aimed at early detection and prevention of the development of those diseases among the risk groups of the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Being launched in 2015 and terminated until 2020 screening examinations are continuously being conducted in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia which are aimed at the prevention and early detection of the cervical cancer. All the women aged 30-60 have the opportunity to undergo examination free of charge for the purpose of early diagnosis of cervical pre-cancer and prevention of cancer through PAP test examination.</p> <p>Within the period between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2021, as a result of implementing screening examinations funded by the World Bank, around 320 thousand examinations of PAP test were performed among women.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the importance of the programme for the purpose of preventing the cervical cancer among women, it is planned to continue the implementation of screening examinations free of charge in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue the implementation of mass screenings for detection and early prevention of non-communicable diseases, particularly cervical cancer, among the risk groups of the population of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The expected outcome in case of implementing the action is the implementation of screening examinations among the risk groups of the population of the Republic of Armenia by contributing to the early detection and control of non-communicable diseases, as well as reduction in mortality. Thus, the indexed rate of premature mortality resulting from 4 most common non-communicable diseases is envisaged to be reduced up to 0.9 by 2025.</p>
	<p>5.3 To further expand the coverage of women in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) testing for the detection of cervical cancer</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 3 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the</p>

Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The mortality structure of most common non-communicable diseases (NCD) in Armenia resembles the mortality pattern of the European Region. The burden of mortality of non-communicable diseases in the general mortality structure of the population constitutes about 80%, moreover, the portion of malignant neoplasms constitutes 20.0.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Being launched in 2015 and before the end of 2020, screening examinations have been continuously conducted in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, which are aimed at the early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. All the women aged 30-60 have the opportunity to undergo examination free of charge for the purpose of early diagnosis of cervical pre-cancer and prevention of cancer through PAP test examination. Within the period between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2021, as a result of implementing screening examinations funded by the World Bank, around 320 thousand PAP test examinations were performed among women.

Taking into consideration the importance of the programme, for the purpose of preventing the cervical cancer among women, it is planned to continue the free of charge implementation of screening examinations in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia.

It has continued under the Action provided for by point 5.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1902-L of 18 November 2021, which should be implemented before 2025. During 2024 the coverage of women in PAP test examinations for cervical cancer has been expanded, amounting as a result to 4.3 %.

Currently, given the high level of effectiveness of examinations conducted using the HPV testing method, the project proposes establishing the date for the PAP test examination for cervical cancer to 2024, rather than 2025, and according to supplement recommended in paragraph 5.2.1, research on cervical cancer should continue using the HPV testing method, as it demonstrates higher efficiency.

The currently recommended amendment and supplement are made due to comparatively low level of effectiveness of examinations conducted using the given method, limitations in its implementation, as well as high level of effectiveness of examinations conducted by HPV testing method, as determined by the assessment of PAP test examination. The international assessment published by the WHO, as well as the experience of countries with effective cervical cancer prevention programmes, which show that HPV testing is the most effective in 80% or more of cervical cancer cases, have served as a basis for Conducting examinations using HPV testing method.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to continue the implementation of mass screenings using the HPV testing method for detection and early prevention of non-communicable diseases, particularly cervical cancer, among the risk groups of the population of the Republic of Armenia during 2025-2026.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The expected outcome in case of implementing the action is the implementation of screening examinations among the women aged 30-60 included in the socially insecure and separate (special) groups of the population of the Republic of Armenia contributing to the early detection of cervical cancer and reduction of mortality level through treatment of the disease in early stage. It is expected that at least 20% of approximately 100,000 beneficiaries will undergo cervical cancer screening through HPV testing. This will allow for the early detection of the disease with 90% accuracy,

	reducing the risk of unnecessary surgeries and improving the effectiveness of treatment for diagnosed patients.
	<p>5.4. Conducting a study on the prevalence of risk factors contributing to the development of non-communicable diseases</p> <p>1. The necessity and objective of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 6 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The action is aimed at studying and assessing the prevalence rate amid COVID-19 pandemic of the behavioural risk factors (RF) (tobacco and alcohol use, physical inactivity, unhealthy food, overweight and obesity) of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and biological risk factors (high blood pressure/ hypertension, high cholesterol and glucose levels in blood, average salt intake) among the population of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the distribution of risk factors by socio-demographic groups, which will provide the opportunity to effectively plan the organisation of controlling and preventing the RF, elaborating policies, implementing reforms.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Preventing and controlling the NCD is a set of comprehensive strategic directions aimed at improving the basic healthcare indicators among the population, preventing and reducing the emergence of NCD, as well as the complications and disabilities resulting from those diseases, improving the quality of their life.</p> <p>Around 90% of all the deaths registered in Armenia is conditioned by NCDs, moreover, by 4 most common NCDs, of which 47.3% are blood circulatory system diseases (BCSD), 15% — malignant neoplasms (MN), 1.3% — diabetes mellitus (DM), 1.1% — chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The premature mortality (under the age of 70) from 4 most common NCDs constitutes 51% in the general mortality structure. It should be mentioned that the prevailing part of the deaths are recorded in the working group aged 35-65.</p> <p>The analysis of the economic burden caused by NCDs proves that the state expenses aimed at treating 4 most common non-communicable diseases in Armenia constitutes AMD 55.6 billion. The indirect additional expenses caused as a result of the lost working capacity exceed the expenses envisaged by the state for more than four times by constituting AMD 294.9 billion. As of this moment, the economic damage of the Republic of Armenia constitutes AMD 362.7 per year which is equivalent to 6.5% of the annual gross domestic product of the country of 2017.</p> <p>The annual growth of the non-communicable diseases is obviously conditioned by the high prevalence of the risk factors contributing to the development of those diseases among the population.</p> <p>During 2016-2017, the data of the STEPS survey conducted upon the methodology of the World Health Organisation, certify that every second man smokes (52%), 11% of men abuses alcohol drinks, 21.3% of the population is physically inactive, every second person is overweight and has obesity, 37.8% has high blood pressure, 35.7% has three, or more RFs contributing to the development of NCDs.</p> <p>The study of COVID-19 pandemic showed that one of the main reasons for mortality of that disease is the existence of a non-communicable disease which makes the course of the disease more serious and increases the death risk.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The action will allow to establish RF monitoring system contributing to the development of NCDs and assess the tendencies of prevalence of NCDs and RFs compared to the results of the previous 4 researches. It should be mentioned that the previous four examinations have been implemented upon the financial assistance of international organisations. Currently, a necessity of institutionalising this research has arisen, as it is done in other</p>

	<p>countries of the European Region.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the issue of the increase in burden of NCD in the Republic of Armenia, the modernity of the latter, as well as the huge economic and social consequences, a necessity has arisen to undertake measures aimed at preventing and controlling NCD, whereto the conduct of such examination will greatly contribute.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>For the purpose of implementing the relevant strategies and programmes of the Government of the Republic of Armenia the availability of the evidence-based information on the prevalence of the risk factors contributing to the development of the non-communicable diseases will be ensured, which will serve as a basis for the purpose of establishing the monitoring system for the risk factors, as well as prevention and early detection of the most common non-communicable diseases for continuously ensuring current screening programmes, introducing and expanding new screening programmes.</p> <p>Both the process of the examination and the publication of the results will contribute to the increase in level of the awareness among the population of the RF impact of emergence of NCD.</p> <p>The examination results will give the opportunity to effectively plan the organisation of actions for controlling and preventing the risk factors, implementation of reforms and policies.</p>
	<p>5.5. Implementing monitoring activities for the purpose of ensuring implementation of the Law "On reduction and prevention of the damage caused to the health as a result of use of tobacco products and the substitutes thereof"</p> <p>1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In accordance with the data of the World Health Organisation (WHO) over 8 million people die annually as a result of tobacco use, more than 1.2 million whereof are non-smokers who are exposed to the impact of second-hand smoke, and 7 million are smokers. Around 80% of 1.1 billion smokers in the world live in countries with low and middle income.</p> <p>Smoking is one of the factors contributing to the development of non-communicable diseases. In accordance with the statistics of 2018 the mortality rate of the most common non-communicable diseases among the population of Armenia constitutes about 80%, moreover blood circulatory system diseases rank first in the mortality — 55.2%, which are followed by the malignant neoplasms 20.2%, diabetes mellitus — 2.3%, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases — 1.5%. About 1500 new cases of malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchi and lung are diagnosed in Armenia annually, mortality and morbidity of lung cancer among men is 5-6 times higher, compared to women. 80% of lung cancer is conditioned by the high prevalence of tobacco use among men. Only 12% of people diagnosed with lung cancer live up to 5 years. Around 55 000 new cases of BCSD are annually registered in Armenia, one of the main reasons for the development whereof is also smoking. The use of tobacco also causes considerable economic burden, which is particularly expressed in the form of significant healthcare expenses related to the treatment of diseases caused as a result of tobacco use, as well as by the loss of human capital related to the morbidity and mortality caused as a result of tobacco use.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In 13 February 2020, the National Assembly adopted the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On reduction and prevention of the damage caused to the health as a result of use of tobacco products and the substitutes thereof" which is aimed at protecting the present and future generations from the negative effect conditioned by raw tobacco materials, tobacco products, use of tobacco substitutes, harmful effects of tobacco smoke, negative impact thereof on social and economic sectors and environment, as well as inculcating the use of tobacco products, substitutes of tobacco products in the perceptions of the population as an unhealthy and unacceptable behaviour.</p> <p>By taking into consideration that the provisions of the law enter into force by stages, implementation of monitoring activities is necessary for the purpose of ensuring implementation of the Law and informing the economic operators.</p> <p>The description of the monitoring activities for the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the Law "On reduction and prevention of the damage caused to the health as a result of use of tobacco products and the substitutes thereof" was approved by Order of the Minister of Healthcare No 3855-A of 21 October 2021.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Monitoring at least 1000 facilities annually for implementation of the provisions of the Law "On reduction and prevention of the damage caused to the health as a result of use of tobacco products and the substitutes thereof" and awareness of relevant economic operators.</p>
	<p>5.6. Implementing actions for fighting against cardiovascular diseases</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 2 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity of preventing cardiovascular diseases among the most common non-communicable diseases, early detection and effective organisation of medical aid and services for the purpose of reducing the mortality from the mentioned diseases in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In accordance with the data of the National Health Information Analytical Center (NHIAC) of the Ministry of Healthcare, the mortality rate of the non-communicable diseases most common among the population constitutes about 80%, moreover, blood circulatory system diseases (BCSD) rank first in the mortality pyramid — 47,3% (based on 2020 data). Four of the main 10 reasons for the increase in the rate of DALY (disability adjusted life years) of the population of the Republic belong to cardio-vascular diseases (ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, hypertension (HTN), other heart diseases). Fighting against the cardiovascular diseases approved by Decision of the Minister of Healthcare No 2341-L of 26 August 2019 is aimed at early detection and prevention of further development of cardiovascular diseases among the population. Therefore, the implementation of the Actions for fighting against the cardiovascular diseases is very important from the perspective of reducing the morbidity and mortality</p>

	<p>conditioned by cardiovascular diseases in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Fighting against cardiovascular diseases will be effective in case of applying the actions in a complex and coordinated way. Importance is particularly attached to the expansion of the groups of beneficiaries receiving diagnostic and treatment services of the cardiovascular system (CVS) free of charge or under privileged conditions guaranteed by the state, monitoring and identifying the issues of urgent surgical services of acute myocardial infarction and services of treating acute or subacute ischemic strokes of the brain, including intravenous thrombolytic therapy with alteplase medicine, ensuring the accessibility to services for the marz population, improving the provision of relevant personnel through the use of incentive mechanisms, increase in public awareness and implementation of a number of other actions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>5% decrease of rate of mortality from diseases in the blood circulation system at the end of implementation of the Actions envisaged by the Programme. At the same time, the indexed rate of premature mortality resulting from 4 most common non-communicable diseases is expected to reduce up to 0.9 by 2025.</p>
	<p>5.7. Expanding services for transplant of organs and/or tissues</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 2 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity of extending the transplant medical aid and services provided to the population under privileged conditions /under co-payment principle/ guaranteed by the state.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, kidney transplant is performed free of charge or under privileged conditions /under co-payment principle/ guaranteed by the state for persons with chronic kidney failure, liver transplant for persons with chronic liver failure and performance of bone marrow/stem cell autotransplant surgeries for persons with hematologic diseases. Moreover, partial compensation constituting AMD 4.000.000 is envisaged for kidney transplant, partial compensation constituting AMD 5.000.000 is envisaged for liver transplant, and compensation constituting AMD 6.500.000 is envisaged for bone marrow transplant. Around 25 transplants are performed annually.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Upon the implementation of the Action it is expected to expand the medical aid and services for transplant provided free of charge or under privileged conditions /under co-payment principle/ already guaranteed by the state by increasing the number of annual transplants up to 40, as well as expand the services by also including the service of allogeneic transplant of bone marrow/stem cell.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to increase the general number of Transplantations up to 200 in the course of 5 years.</p>
	<p>5.8. Organising public awareness events with regard to a healthy lifestyle, including healthy nutrition, promotion of physical activity, use of tobacco, harmful impact of cigarette smoke and damages of abuse of alcohol (through electronic communication, implementation of educational programmes, as well as dissemination of print materials)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 6 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In accordance with the 2014-2025 Perspective Development Strategic Programme approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 442-N of 27 March 2014 the overriding objectives of the Government are the improvement of the rates of morbidity and mortality, promotion of healthy lifestyle, particularly reduction of prevalence of risk factors (hereinafter RF) contributing to the development of the most common non-communicable diseases (hereinafter NCD). The burden of around 80% of all the deaths registered in Armenia fall on the four most common NCDs, 53.7% whereof is conditioned by BCSD, 20.8% — by MN, 2.0% — by DM, 1.3% by COPD. The premature mortality (under the age of 70) from 4 most common NCDs constitutes 18.8% in the general mortality structure. It should be mentioned that the prevailing part of the deaths are recorded in the working group aged 35-65. The development of the NCD is associated with the lifestyle peculiarities and the risk factors related thereto. The negative impact of the risk factors on the health of the population is expressed after a relatively long time, rather than directly. Reduction of the prevalence of the risk factors contributes to the improvement of the health indicators, particularly to the increase of the lifespan expected, prevalence of the NCD and the reduction of mortality thereof. The main risk factors for developing non-communicable diseases are tobacco use, abuse of alcohol, excess weight, high blood pressure and physical inactivity.</p> <p>The annual growth of the non-communicable diseases is obviously conditioned by the high prevalence of the risk factors contributing to the development of those diseases among the population.</p> <p>Among persons aged 18-69 every third person (36,0%) has 3-5 risk factors contributing to the development of the NCD, and among persons aged 40-69 every sixth person (16,5%) is highly likely to develop BCSD or die conditioned by that disease in the course of the next ten years.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementation of complex actions aimed at inculcating a healthy lifestyle by all the interested parties.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>In case of the implementation of the Action reduction of number of persons exposed to the main behavioural health risks conditioned by the increase</p>

	<p>in the level of awareness of the population of healthy lifestyle and behaviour, as well as increase in number of persons leading a healthy lifestyle are expected. As a result of the implementation of the Action the number of persons leading a healthy lifestyle is expected to increase (up to 60% among children and 30% among adults).</p>
	<p>5.9. Studying international practice for restriction of the quantities of saturated fats/transfats, free sugars and salt contained in foods and submitting recommendations for implementation of relevant actions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 6 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Irregular eating and skipping the breakfast is a common behaviour in Armenia. In accordance with HBSC research data, the number of the adolescents having breakfast reduces with age. The results of the survey show that the Armenian youth consumes too much sweets, almost twice more than in other countries of Europe and Central Asia. 30% of 17-year-old children use sweet carbonated drinks daily.</p> <p>According to WHO, daily intake of salt should not exceed 5 grams (equivalent to <2 grams of sodium per day), while the amounts of salt consumption in Armenia exceed this threshold twice. According to the 2016-2017 STEPS survey data, 35% of the adult population always or often adds salt to the meal while eating, and 71% always adds salt while preparing a meal at home. In 2010, 26% of deaths from cardiovascular diseases recorded among people aged 20-69 was caused by daily salt intake exceeding 5 grams daily (>2 grams of sodium per day). In accordance with HBSC research data, 20% of adolescents aged 11-15 eats chips at least once a day.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Proper physical and mental development of the population, the normal and healthy functioning of other systems having immune, hormonal, enzymatic and vital significance are possible only under the conditions of ensuring the completeness and safety of the food. The right choice of food selection, preparation, preservation and form of intake is of great importance, since insufficient or excessive amount of any nutrients may harm the human health and become a reason for developing NCDs.</p> <p>Ensuring the access to information for the population on the amounts of added sugar, salt and saturated fats (too much use whereof is contraindicated in certain types of diseases) constituting ingredients of food will contribute to the reduction of the rates of morbidity of non-communicable diseases.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to implement legislative regulations aimed at promoting healthy nutrition, as well as raising awareness among the consumers of the quantities of saturated fats, transfats, free sugars and salt contained in food.</p>

	<p>5.10. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia "On prescribing the profiling of food substances"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 6 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of revealing the behaviour of adolescents, research "Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children" (hereinafter HBSC) has been conducted in 50 countries of the world under the general methodology guaranteed by WHO. The research is conducted among persons aged 11, 13, 15, 17. The data of the HBSC research conducted in 2017/2018 in Armenia certify that 70% of the adolescents eats sweets for several times a day, 43% of adolescents uses vegetables regularly, 57% — fruit, about 30% — sweet carbonated drinks. 58% of boys, 38% of girls at the age of 15 have ever used alcohol in life. 21% of boys, 3% of girls at the age of 15 have ever used tobacco in life.</p> <p>A tendency of growth of the overweight rate among children is recorded in Armenia. In accordance with the data of the 2015 Demographic and Health Surveys, around 15% of the children under the age of 5 have had overweight or obesity. In accordance with the HBSC research, 18% of adolescent girls and 26% of boys among 11-year-old persons is overweight or has obesity, those numbers reduce at the age of 15 reaching 6% among girls and 15% among boys, accordingly.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Profiles of nutrients — a tool for classifying the food in compliance with the ingredients of nutrients for the purpose of preventing diseases and promoting health. Determining the profile of nutrients allows to distinguish between the food, which are more or less likely to be a component of a healthy diet. The nutrient profile is a tool for food classification, and not for diet, but the implementation thereof may lead to the increase in nutritional value of the general diet.</p> <p>The WHO data certify that the marketing of products with high levels of saturated fats, salt and/or free sugars in the children-targeted advertisement is very common, during which persuasive advertisements are used, which is more impressing for children and is available on different media, including on TV and on the Internet.</p> <p>In accordance with the data of WHO, the children-targeted marketing of the food with high levels of free sugars, salt and saturated fats is one of the main factors affecting the origin of child obesity.</p> <p>For the purpose of settling this issue, WHO calls on member states to implement comprehensive actions to limit the children-targeted marketing of the food with high levels of free sugars, salt and saturated fats. Profiling the nutrient is an auxiliary tool aimed at restricting the food marketing.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to have a tool for regulating the children-targeted food advertisement.</p>
	<p>5.11. Studying the legislative regulations for healthy nutrition, identifying the gaps and adopting Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On setting the</p>

schedule for submission of amendments to legal acts aimed at promoting healthy nutrition”

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 6 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at regulating the legislative framework for healthy nutrition.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Proper physical and mental development of the population, the normal and healthy functioning of other systems having immune, hormonal, enzymatic and vital significance are possible only under the conditions of ensuring the completeness and safety of the food. The right choice of food selection, preparation, preservation and form of intake is of great importance, since insufficient or excessive amount of any nutrients may harm the human health and become a reason for developing NCDs.

The results of the National STEPS Survey prove that 1 out of 10 of the population do not eat fruits and vegetables at all, 4-5 out of 10 eat 1-2 portions, which — according to the WHO consultation — is not enough for healthy diet and increases the risk of developing NCD. In accordance with HBSC research (2017/2018), use of vegetables constitutes 51% among girls aged 11-15, 43% among boys, 41% among 17-year-old adolescents.

Irregular eating and skipping the breakfast is a common behaviour in Armenia. In accordance with HBSC research data, the number of the adolescents having breakfast reduces with age. 61% of boys and 50% of girls at the age of 13 have regular breakfast, and already at the age of 17 — 44% of boys and 38% of girls.

The results of the survey show that the Armenian youth consumes too much sweets, almost twice more than in other countries of Europe and Central Asia. Almost 50% of adolescents eats sweets (i.e. pastry, dessert, confectionery) daily. 70% of girls and 61% of boys aged 13, 68% of girls and 64% of boys aged 15, and 51% on the average among adolescents aged 17 eat sweets for several times a day. 26% of girls and 29% of boys aged 13, 24% of girls and 33% of boys aged 15 use sweet carbonated drinks, and 30% of groups aged 17 uses sweet carbonated drinks daily.

According to WHO, daily intake of salt should not exceed 5 grams (equivalent to <2 grams of sodium per day), while the amounts of salt consumption in Armenia exceed this threshold twice. According to the 2016-2017 STEPS survey data, 35% of the adult population always or often adds salt to the meal while eating, and 71% always adds salt while preparing a meal at home. In 2010, 26% of deaths from cardiovascular diseases recorded among people aged 20-69 was caused by daily salt intake exceeding 5 grams daily (>2 grams of sodium per day). In accordance with HBSC research data, 20% of adolescents aged 11-15 eats chips at least once a day.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of settling this issue, it is necessary to conduct a study of legislative regulations aimed at healthy nutrition and identify the gaps.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

	As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to implement legislative regulations aimed at promoting healthy nutrition.
	<p>5.12. Conducting screening examinations for prevention and early detection of breast cancer among risk groups of the population of the Lori, Tavush and Syunik Marzes of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 3 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The breast malignant neoplasms are commonly diagnosed malignant neoplasms among women throughout the world constituting more than two million new cases in 2018.</p> <p>The breast cancer of women ranks first among the cancer diseases in Armenia. In recent years, there has been an increase in morbidity of breast cancer, particularly in 2010, the number of women diagnosed with breast cancer first-ever in life constituted 982, and in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 — 1,210, 1,093, 1,039 and 1,118 cases were recorded, respectively.</p> <p>The programme is aimed at early detection and prevention of breast malignant neoplasms among women of 3 borderline marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Regulated breast screening is not implemented in the Republic of Armenia, and the referral rate to medical institutions in marzes for the purposes of preventing the mentioned disease is very low.</p> <p>As a result, the disease is detected in the last stages, when the treatment process thereof is more complicated and expensive.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of "Improvement of prevention and management of non-communicable diseases in primary health care" grant programme (hereinafter programme) financed from the funds of the Eurasian Fund for Stabilisation and Development signed in 2018 between the Republic of Armenia and Asian Development Bank, it is envisaged to conduct screening mammography examination for breast in borderline marzes of Tavush, Syunik and Lori of the Republic of Armenia. The examinations are envisaged to be conducted among female group aged 50-69 by ensuring at least 50% coverage (around 26 thousand examinations).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The objective of the programme is to ensure at least 50% coverage of women in the 50-69 age group in each marz in the screening conducted by detecting the disease through preventive examinations and providing the opportunity to start the treatment thereof in the shortest time possible. The programme implemented is a pilot programme. In case of the effective implementation thereof and the availability of relevant financial resources, it</p>

	is envisaged to continue the screening examinations for early detection of the breast cancer through mobile mammography equipment acquired in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia.
6.	<p>6.1. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the action plan for maintaining and improving mental health"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister No 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 16 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at determining the 2022-2026 list of the actions for maintaining and improving mental health.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is aimed at improving the mental health of the population, protecting the rights of persons with mental health issues, developing the system for maintaining and improving mental health, preventing the emergence of mental health issues of the population, ensuring the psychosocial rehabilitation and social engagement of persons with long-term mental health issues, as well as developing the personnel potential.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In accordance with the statistics increase in morbidity of mental disorders has been registered in Armenia in recent years, particularly the number of registered persons having mental health issues constituted 32717, 51167 and 57164 in 2000, 2015 and 2019, accordingly, by recording 56% and 74% increase in morbidity in 2015 and 2019, accordingly, compared to 2000.</p> <p>The number of the persons having mental health issues under the dispensary care has increased constituting 1169, 2042 and 2353 in 1990, 2005, and 2019, accordingly, by recording 74% and 101% increase in 2005 and 2019, accordingly, compared to 1990.</p> <p>Therefore, approving the action plan for maintaining and improving the mental health is important for the purpose of developing the system for maintaining and improving mental health and preventing the emergence of mental health issues among the population.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the activities of introducing the actions for maintaining and improving the mental health it is envisaged to prevent the emergence of mental health issues of the population, ensure the psychosocial rehabilitation and social engagement of persons with long-term mental health issues, as well as develop the personnel potential.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is envisaged to define the 2022-2026 List of Actions for Maintaining and Improving Mental Health.</p>

7.	<p>7.1 Ratifying the Protocol "On Eliminating Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products" of the Framework Convention of the World Health Organisation "On Tobacco Control" by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 6 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at counteracting the illicit trade in tobacco products and strengthening the legal aspects of international co-operation in the field of illicit [trade] in tobacco products.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia ratified the Framework Convention of the World Health Organisation "On Tobacco Control" (hereinafter Convention) which aims to protect the present and future generations from the devastating consequences of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco smoke on human health through ensuring relevant scopes to fight against tobacco at national, regional and international levels subject to the implementation of the parties, as well as to protect from social, environmental and economic consequences in order to permanently and significantly reduce the prevalence of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco smoke.</p> <p>Article 15 of this Convention concerns the illicit trade in tobacco products, according where to the parties agreed to eliminate all the forms of illicit trade in tobacco products, including elimination of smuggling, illicit manufacturing and counterfeiting. Protocol "On Eliminating Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products" is the first protocol of the Convention the objective whereof is the elimination of all the forms of illicit trade in tobacco products. It is a new independent international treaty which is based on Article 15 of the Convention and addresses the measures for counteracting the illicit trade of tobacco products being a key aspect of the comprehensive anti-tobacco policy.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Ratification of the Protocol is a significant tool for counteraction of the illicit trade of tobacco products and finally for elimination thereof, which, in its turn, may contribute to the public healthcare and strengthening the legal aspects of international co-operation in the illicit sector of tobacco products.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action counteracting the illicit trade of tobacco products and strengthening the legal aspects of international co-operation in the illicit sector of tobacco products are expected.</p>
8.	<p>8.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government "On approving the Strategy on Control and Prevention of Resistance to Antimicrobial Medicine and the 2023-2027 Interdepartmental Action Plan"</p> <p>1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On</p>

	<p>the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 11 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at preventing the resistance to Antimicrobial medicine in all the fields within the scope of "One Health" concept.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The development of resistance to antimicrobial medicine is currently a major issue for the world healthcare. Communicable diseases in the drug-resistance form are not subjected to treatment with standard schemes, as a result whereof, the course of disease prolongs, medication becomes ineffective and the number of unsuccessful outcomes and complications increases. In some countries of the European Region the level of the prevalence of the antimicrobial medicine reaches 25% and, based on the data of 28 countries, 25000 people out of the 400 000 cases die from infections in the drug-resistance forms. Actually, these data are possibly higher, since registering and reporting the consequences due to the resistance to antimicrobial medicine are not implemented completely.</p> <p>The reason for developing resistance to antimicrobial medicine in the Republic of Armenia is the low-level control in all the sectors (environmental, agricultural, healthcare) concerning that issue. Regulating the resistance to antimicrobial medicine and the consumption of antimicrobial medicine require co-ordinated and comprehensive activities aimed at regulating the resistance to antimicrobial medicine and the consumption of antimicrobial medicine.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the issue it is necessary to apply complex and comprehensive approaches within the scope of the concept "Once Health" and apply mechanisms for cross-sectoral management.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, the involvement of all the interested sectors and the mutually agreed continuous activity in the process of implementing the actions aimed at regulating the resistance to antimicrobial medicine and the consumption of antimicrobial medicine will be ensured.</p>
9.	<p>9.1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements" to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On medical assistance and service to the population" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from the requirement of part 2 of Article 29 of the Law "On Medical assistance and service to the population", sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p>

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, it is not the doctors who are licensed for the purpose of implementing medical aid and services in the Republic of Armenia, but another legal entity or sole proprietor who meets the requirements-conditions for licensing prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Meeting the requirement of staffing prescribed by the legislation is restricted by the availability of specialist having relevant education and/or qualification, as well as having undergone trainings during the last 5 years.

In the current situation, a number of issues are emerging, such as low motivation of the medical staff with regard to the provision of quality medical aid and services, since the latter's salary does not mainly depend on its work quality, as well as failure to hold the doctor liable for providing poor quality medical aid and services.

Currently, the licensing system for healthcare workers is operating in a number of developed countries, such as Belgium, Germany, Finland, Denmark, the USA, etc.

At the same time, in the course of the last years, diverse issues and gaps emerged in the course of the professional activity of the specialists with regard to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 952-N "On approving the lists of main medical, dental, pharmacological, public healthcare and pharmaceutical professions and narrow specialisations of the Republic of Armenia" of 4 September 2014.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

This action is aimed at making relevant amendments in point 2 of Article 29 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On medical assistance and service to the population" for the purpose of defining and clarifying the lists of the main professions and narrow specialisations of the professional activity in the field of healthcare, as well as by the necessity of ensuring the legislative grounds for introducing the individual licensing system for the doctors.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Adopting the action will contribute to defining the list of the main professions and narrow specialisations granting the right to carry out medical and secondary vocational medical activity in the Republic of Armenia by bringing it in line with the requirements of the global health experience, clarifying the separation between the main, as well as secondary vocational specialisations and narrow specialisations of healthcare, later creating a legal ground for the preparation of the personnel with the main relevant specialisations and narrow specialisations of the healthcare sector. As a result of adopting the action the healthcare workers will be provided with the opportunity to receive an individual license for implementing medical aid and services, which, in its turn, will serve as a basis to engage in independent professional activities. Besides, as a result of introducing this system it is expected to increase the quality of medical aid and services, exclude the dependence of the specialist on the medical institution, provide the patient with the opportunity to exercise his/her right to choose the doctor on his/her own, restrict the doctor's activity through depriving of the license in case of a mistake made by the latter.

	<p>9.2 Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On defining the lists of the main professions and narrow specialisations for professional activity in the field of healthcare"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from the requirement of part 2 of Article 29 of the Law "On medical assistance and service to the population", sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at the availability of modernised and clarified lists of the main professions of professional activity and narrow specialisations in the field of healthcare.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 952-N "On approving the lists of main medical, dental, pharmacological, public healthcare and pharmaceutical professions and narrow specialisations of the Republic of Armenia" of 4 September 2014 is currently operating in the healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia. However, the diverse issues emerged in recent years in the course of the professional activity of the specialists of the healthcare sector contributed to review the current lists of main medical, dental, pharmacological, public healthcare and pharmaceutical professions and narrow specialisations of the Republic of Armenia, make certain legislative amendments for the purpose of filling in and correcting the existing gaps.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>By the draft, it is recommended to define the lists of the main professions and narrow specialisations of the professional activity in the healthcare field by bringing it in line with the requirements of the global health experience.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adopting the legal act will regulate the list of the specialists having right to carry out professional activity in the field of healthcare of the Republic of Armenia by bringing it in line with the requirements of the global health experience. It will also specify the main professions and narrow specialisations, the separation of secondary vocational medical professions and will create a legal ground for further preparing personnel with higher and secondary vocational medical professions of relevant main professions and narrow specialisations, as well as will bring the composition of doctor-specialists in compliance with the present and future requirements of the healthcare system.</p>
	<p>9.3. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the professional characteristics of medical workers"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 35 of part 1 of Article 2 and Article 31 of the Law "On medical assistance and service to the population", as well as sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p>

	<p>The implementation of this action is conditioned by the necessity of the availability of professional characteristics in line with the latest developments in medicine.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, professional characteristics of all the professions for the healthcare workers do not exist. Over time, steps have been taken to prescribe them, however, no overall final result has been achieved. The fact that the professional characteristics are not modern within this context, and in certain cases the lack thereof in practice may cause issues from the perspective of selecting the specialists properly and carrying out professional activity.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into consideration the medical developments, it is necessary to review and define the professional characteristics of the healthcare workers.</p> <p>2. The expected outcome in case of implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to have general professional descriptions of healthcare workers approved by the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia which will prescribe the theoretical and practical knowledge, working skills and capabilities of the specialist, as well as professional rights, the scope of responsibilities and functions.</p>
10.	<p>10.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government "On approving the 2024-2026 programme for improving reproductive health, reducing perinatal losses and improving the birthrate conditioned by the healthcare function"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity of ensuring the continuation of the activities prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 258-L of 5 March 2020 "On approving the programme of improving the birthrate conditioned by healthcare functions and the 2020-2023 actions ensuring the execution of the programme".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2020, a plan was adopted by the Government, the actions envisaged whereby are intended to promote the birthrate by improving the reproductive health of the population, reducing perinatal losses, overcoming infertility. The plan ends in 2023, however, promoting the birthrate will continue to remain as a strategic issue for the country, especially taking into consideration the fact that during the 44-day war we had a serious loss of reproductive potential which will inevitably have its manifestation from 2023-2024.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Assessing the current plan will allow to identify the weaknesses and strengths of the latter, actions that are most acceptable to the population and are in high demand by strengthening those components, reviewing the weaknesses simultaneously ensuring the continuation of the plan in a more effective format.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Elaborating the new plan will contribute to the promotion of births conditioned by the healthcare factor, therefore will also have its role in the settlement of the demographic issue the country faced. At the same time, it will contribute — by 2025 — to the increase in the overall birthrate by 18%.</p>
	<p>10.2. Ensuring access to services (geographical and financial) provided through assisted reproductive technologies</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to develop services providing assisted reproductive technologies at marz level.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The concentration of the services providing medical aid through assisted reproductive technologies in the capital causes huge troubles for the married couples. The treatment of infertility lasts 1-2.5 years on the average. In the course of each month, the couple visits the doctor for many times to determine the growth of follicle of woman, and to carry out actions, such as determining endometrial maturation, checking the treatment outcomes of infectious and hormonal disorders. Based on our calculations, 25-30% of expenses account for the transport (this is in case the time lasting from 2-3 hours to 8-9 hours is not taken into consideration). While, both the professional and the equipment resources required for the centres (Second-level centres for reproductive medicine) providing intrauterine insemination service are much less, than in case of in vitro fertilisation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The amendments made in June of this year in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On human reproductive health and reproductive rights" will enable to clarify the professional and equipment requirements presented to the intrauterine insemination cabinets since the main equipment necessary for establishing the 2nd level centres for the reproductive medicine shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ultrasound examination equipment with abdominal and vaginal sensor B. Centrifuge C. Microscope

	<p>D. Refrigerator</p> <p>E. Desk designed for the work of the andrologist</p> <p>F. Computer</p> <p>Laboratory and disposable items</p> <p>By equipping the marz medical centres with equipments and carrying out professional trainings, it will be possible to create cabinets providing service of intrauterine insemination in 3 marz centres.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Establishing the centres in marz medical centres will reduce the necessity to visit the capital by 50-60%, thereby improving both the geographical and financial accessibility to the given services, which will contribute to some extent to the improvement of birthrate conditioned by the current healthcare factor and indirectly to the improvement of the demographic situation.</p> <p>As a result, the rate of young women and girls with reproductive issues will reduce from 18.5 to 9.2 by 2025. At the same time, it will contribute to the increase in the total birthrate up to 18%.</p>
	<p>10.3. Strengthening prenatal diagnostic services in marzes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the low level of the intrauterine fetal diagnosis services in marzes and the necessity of the latter's improvement.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the 2019 statistical year-book "Health and Healthcare" of the National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia, 1398 (2010), 1405 (2015), 1513 (2017), 1361 (2018) cases of inborn errors (development defects), deformities, chromosome disorders have been detected among children aged 0-14 of the population of the Republic of Armenia (absolute value).</p> <p>The ultrasound examination plays a key role in detecting the development defects. The prevailing majority of the development defects may be detected through modern ultrasound equipment by a specialist with relevant qualification. Late detection of the defects causes a number of medical, psychological and social issues. The studies showed that there is a strong need in our country to improve both the quality of the examinations provided, and the accessibility thereof, particularly at the marz level.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>Relevant training and provision of equipment of the specialists will show — within a short period of time — its effectiveness through detecting fetal defects and perinatal consilium to determine the maintenance plan of the latter with regard to the defects incompatible with life and not subjected to correction, as well as the reduction thereof.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Early detection of the defects causing consistent limitations for life that are incompatible with life and not subjected to correction will allow to terminate the pregnancy upon medical instructions by reducing infant mortality and newborn mortality, and to determine the most effective plan of pregnancy management in case of correctable defects. At the same time, the implementation of the Action will contribute to the reduction of child mortality under the age of 5 up to 8.2%</p>
11.	<p>11.1. Conducting a study on the reasons for the tendency of the growth of cesarean sections in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to study the composition of the reasons for cesarean sections in Armenia through conducting a research.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The tendency of cesarean section is growing year by year in the Republic, thus, where they constituted 30% in 2017, and 35.7% in 2020, according to the data of August 2021 the cesarean sections constituted 37%. In many cases, the cesarean section is the only way that allows to avoid the existing threats to the mother and the child, however, according to the WHO recommendations, 10-15% was deemed as the desirable level of cesarean sections in the course of the last 30 years. At the same time, in 2015, WHO stated that the rate of cesarean sections higher than 10% is not associated with the reduction of maternal and infant mortality rate. The announcement stated that the relation between the rate of cesarean sections and stillbirths, maternal and perinatal morbidity, pediatric results may not be determined due to the lack of data, therefor WHO does not recommend an ideal variant for the level of cesarean sections.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Although the level of optimal cesarean sections helps maintain the life of the mother and baby, it must be performed upon medical instructions. Actually, the efforts must be aimed at ensuring the cesarean sections — only in cases when there is a need thereof — rather than achieving a certain rate. The increase in cesarean sections is a global process and it even exceeds 50% in a number of countries worldwide by also having objective reasons (increasing the age limit of the firstborns, increasing the proportion of the firstborns, increasing multiple pregnancies, increasing the middle-aged women giving birth, increasing overweight and fat women), however, for instance, it does not exceed 20-25% in the Northern European countries with low level of child and maternal mortality. The global reasons for the increase in cesarean sections are known worldwide, however, to elaborate a programme and distinct methodology for fighting thereagainst, it is necessary to identify all the reasons — objective and subjective —</p>

	<p>typical of our country, wherefor a national representative survey is needed.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Summarising the survey results will provide an opportunity to have a study of root causes of the increase in cesarean sections in the country which will serve as a basis for elaborating a realistic action plan aimed at reducing the unsubstantiated cesarean sections.</p>
	<p>11.2. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the action plan aimed at terminating and reducing the growth of cesarean sections in the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the growth of cesarean sections in the country in recent years.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The tendency of cesarean section is growing year by year in the Republic, thus, where they constituted 30% in 2017, and 35.7% in 2020, according to the data of August 2021 the cesarean sections constituted 37%.</p> <p>Where these growth tendencies are maintained, further increase in cesarean sections is projected, which will have an unfavourable impact both on the health of woman and the decision of the woman with regard to having children, by taking into consideration that after the first cesarean section the next child deliveries are performed in the same way having an impact on the decision of the woman with regard to having the third and more children, thereby restricting the number of children planned.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>After conducting representative survey at the level of the country, after identifying all the actors and reasons in the process of performing cesarean sections it is possible to elaborate actions aimed at elimination of reasons, rather than alleviation of consequences.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>After identifying the reasons typical of Armenia it becomes possible to elaborate an action plan which will allow to stop, then reduce, to the extent possible, the level of cesarean sections by decreasing the impact of subjective factors and, simultaneously, avoiding the possible risks for the mother and newborn.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to reduce and stop the increase in cesarean sections which will have a positive impact both in terms of improving maternal health, reducing the state financial burden, and promoting the birthrate, since after the first cesarean section</p>

	the next child deliveries are performed in the same way, by having an impact on the decision of the woman with regard to having the third and more children, thereby restricting the number of children planned.
12.	<p>11.3. Providing methodological support to marz medical organisations providing obstetric care by the 3rd level medical organisations of obstetric care of the city of Yerevan</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity of the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to improve the quality of obstetric care and the rate of maternal mortality at marz level.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The rate of maternal mortality in Armenia is a matter of concern taking into account the trends of recent years that is conditioned by both the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and deterioration of somatic condition of women, insufficiency of human resources at marz level, the need for regular upgrade of their knowledges, as well as the absence of constant contact with the leading specialists of the city of Yerevan and of the necessary platform for providing consultation support in complex situations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to organise, through the leading clinics of the city of Yerevan, outreach visits to the marz medical centres attached, where discussions concerning the complicated gynaecological cases, continuous training and discussion for guidelines of the management of common gynaecological pathologies and complications will be held, as well as an opportunity will be created to organise remote discussions of the problematic cases with the leading specialists of the city Yerevan and to receive second opinion therefrom.</p> <p>1.3. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improving the knowledge of specialists providing obstetric care in marzes, improving the rates of maternal mortality by 18% through the discussion of complicated gynaecological cases.</p> <p>12.1. Introducing a programme for newborn screening of Adrenogenital Syndrome</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The screening is aimed at early detection of the salt-losing forms of Adrenogenital Syndrome among newborns and preventing the mortality with timely treatment, detecting the virile form among boys, detecting about 20% of non-classical form by preventing the disease-related health and development issues. The disease-related complications may be prevented only before the development of symptoms by examining all the children and detecting the newborns who need treatment. In case of</p>

timely treatment most issues may be avoided by ensuring the further development of the child.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Congenital Adrenal Cortex Dysfunction (hereinafter CACD) is an autosomal recessive disease which is conditioned by the congenital defect of enzymes involved in synthesis of steroid hormones of adrenal cortex. The frequency of occurrence of classical types of the disease among the population constitutes 1:14 000 newborn on the average, that of the heterozygous carriage and non-classical types among some populations reaches up to 1:500-1:1000. The prevalence of the non-classical type is strictly different in various populations and ethnic groups, for instance it constitutes 1:100 among the population of New York, and 1:27 — among the population of Ashkenaz. No data on the prevalence of the disease among the Armenian population has been published, since there are no similar examinations conducted, however, there are currently 28 children under the age of 6 registered in the republican endocrine dispensary for children (through seeing an endocrinologist or resuscitation units).

21-hydroxylase deficiency may be conditioned by various mutations of CYP 21A gene responsible for that enzyme. The classical type of Congenital Adrenal Cortex Dysfunction (CACD) is usually diagnosed after the birth or in the first months of life based on "unknown" structure of genital organs, virilisation, weight and salt lost, dehydration, hyperkalemia and hyperpigmentation, where the clinical manifestations are highly pronounced. In case of this type the lack of treatment may result in child mortality as a consequence of collapse and cardiogenic shock. However, in most cases, particularly in case of virile or non-classical types, it is diagnosed quite late, when the premature puberty of children begins. It leads to rapid growth of children, however, later, they develop short stature as a consequence of their accelerated bone maturation and premature closure of growth plates. The non-classical form of Congenital Adrenal Cortex Dysfunction (CACD) may be presumed among female children at the pre-puberty and post-puberty age in case of menstrual disorders and virilisation. The prevailing majority (80%) of 21-hydroxylase deficiency is partial, therefore signs of gluco- and mineralocorticoid insufficiency, are mostly not pronounced and are detected in examinations with regard to infertility, but not always. It may remain undiagnosed among male children altogether.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Blood sampling of newborns in all maternity hospitals of the Republic and determination of 17OH progesterone therewith.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Thanks to conducting screening it is expected to detect and diagnose CACD among newborns during early preclinical periods, and perform timely and adequate treatment, prevent the development of acute adrenal insufficiency and the need of resuscitation treatment, reduce mortality of such children. For instance, the newborn screening introduced in the Russian Federation since 2006 found that the actual prevalence of the Congenital Adrenal Cortex Dysfunction (CACD) in that country is three times higher than the detection of disease based on the referral.

The treatment is a lifelong replacement therapy and requires lifelong dispensary supervision over children both in children's dispensary, and also in endocrine dispensary for adults. At the same time, the implementation of the Action will contribute to the reduction of mortality of children under the age of 5 up to 8.2%

	<p>12.2. Increasing the quality of knowledge of and services provided to the medical staff of intensive therapy services of children in medical organisations of marzes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to improve the quality of medical aid services of intensive therapy and resuscitation provided to the children in marzes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Third-level children resuscitation services are located in Yerevan, today second-level children resuscitation services are available only in Gyumri. There are no separate resuscitation units for children in other marzes of the Republic, they operate irregularly in composition of units for adults. At the same time, the latter's staff needs not only guidelines for conditions in children requiring intensive therapy, but also simple algorithms, which will guide the medical staff by providing them with the opportunity to quickly decide with regard to the treatment tactics and selection of therapeutic actions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended upon the action to assess the sufficiency of the services providing medical aid of intensive and resuscitation for children in marzes and to re-equip, when necessary. At the same time, after the algorithms are elaborated and printed, they will be posted in the form of posters in the intensive care units of each medical institution in marzes by saving the precious time for deciding between the resuscitation and intensive therapy of the child and selecting the therapeutic tactics.</p> <p>Instruction of the medical staff in marzes will be organised through the leading specialists of the third-level pediatric resuscitation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The expected outcome from this action is the improvement of knowledge of the medical staff working in marzes, as a result whereof it is expected to improve the quality of medical aid and reduce the child mortality. At the same time, the implementation of the Action will contribute to the reduction of the mortality of children under the age of 5 up to 8.2%.</p>
	<p>12.3. Creating a children's palliative pilot outpatient service in the Republic of Armenia — for beneficiaries of Yerevan and the nearby marzes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity of improving the quality</p>

	<p>of life of the children with congenital and hereditary diseases causing disabilities, diseases with irreversible course.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Children's palliative care is a special section of palliative care, which is considerably different from the palliative care for adults; congenital and hereditary diseases causing multiple disabilities, irreversible neuromuscular disorders etc. rather than oncological diseases occupy a significant place among children in palliative care. Perinatal palliative care, referring to especially severe cases of newborns, has its unique characteristics. The needs of the families of the patients are also different.</p> <p>The study conducted in Armenia upon the international assistance assessed the number of children's palliative cases — around 2000 per year.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A concept and model for palliative care in compliance with current international approaches have been elaborated. By taking into consideration that children's palliative cases are long-term processes, in addition to already existing short-term inpatient aid, it is necessary to create a specialised service where through the continuous palliative care provided at home, as well as the regular visits of the specialists to the patients will be ensured. It is envisaged in the primary stage to introduce such services in Yerevan, then in marzes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it will be possible to more optimally organise the care of sick children and avoid unnecessary hospitalisations, improve their life quality in the last stage of life.</p>
	<p>12.4. Creating, launching, running and regularly updating an informational/advisory on-line platform regarding services provided in the mother and child health protection sector, pregnant women, childcare, most common diseases and conditions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to increase the knowledge among pregnant women/mothers/caregivers of the most common diseases and conditions.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>It is known that the child mortality mostly depends not only on the quality of the healthcare services, but also on the education level of the parents, the ability of the mother/caregiver to properly organise the child care, assess the condition during illnesses and display a proper behaviour. However, the information posted on the Internet is not always available, it is posted on various platforms, websites, and also contains incorrect information for most of the time. There are such platforms in many countries, the information included wherein is guaranteed by the state, they are highly demanded and have a big role among the population.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Creating the Internet platform will provide the opportunity to women and mothers preparing to become a mother to receive — through this platform — trustworthy information which will help the parent with regard to guiding, familiarising with the danger signs, providing first aid at home, and providing other trustworthy information on other issues, at the same time encouraging the parent to see the doctor immediately, when necessary, as well as on opportunity and place to receive other due services (social, educational etc.).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Due to the operation of the platform it is expected to save the time of the doctor and parent by reducing the visits to the hospital not requiring hospitalisation, to improve the awareness of the population of various issues related to the child by reducing the child morbidity and mortality due to proper referral. At the same time, the implementation of the Action will contribute to the reduction of mortality of children under the age of 5 up to 8.2%.</p>
13.	<p>13.1. Elaborating a fact-based and cost-efficient model of healthcare services provided to school-aged children and adolescents</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to introduce a cost-effective model of services provided to adolescents in the existing outpatient-polyclinic system.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to WHO, 70% of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases among adults is conditioned by the health behaviour formed and health issues obtained during adolescence. In accordance with the 2018 National Survey of "Health Behaviour in School-Aged Adolescents" among adolescents have both health and behavioural issues, 60% of adolescents have presented multiple health complaints, 30% — signs of depression, etc. Unhealthy eating habits and other behaviors, particularly overeating sweets and drinking excessive amounts of carbonated beverages, have contributed to a significant increase in the number of adolescents with overweight and obesity, etc. The awareness of prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases is low. At the same time, referral rate to medical organisations is low, there is a late detection of cases. Meanwhile, the experience of the countries of the world and our region (Moldova, Estonia, etc.) shows that it is possible to improve the health and behaviour of adolescents by providing better quality, friendly services at the primary healthcare, secondary and tertiary levels, general education institutions, as well as by implementing community prevention programmes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Upon the implementation of the Action, the best model of the services for adolescents will be recommended which may be localised in the conditions of Armenia and introduced in the current outpatient-polyclinic system.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it will be possible to organise more targeted aid and services for adolescents by taking into consideration the behavioural risks, age, health and psychological characteristics typical of adolescents which will later become the guarantee of a healthy adult displaying a proper behaviour.</p>
	<p>13.2. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the procedure for medical aid and services to school-aged children and adolescents in medical organisations of primary health care and general educational institutions"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity to introduce a cost-effective model of services provided to adolescents in the existing outpatient-polyclinic system.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The service to the adolescents in the primary healthcare unit currently operating is assigned to the district doctors, but based on their workload, the consulting activity required for the adolescent, prevention of the risky behaviour, responding to his/her needs in isolation are not always implemented properly.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>An order will be elaborated, wherein, by taking into consideration the recommendations presented, the place and role of the healthcare worker providing services to the adolescents will be clarified, his/her job description will be approved.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, prerequisites will be created for introducing services for adolescents in the Republic and responding to the needs of adolescents in the best way possible.</p>
14.	<p>14.1. Implementing the actions approved by Order of the Minister of Healthcare No 456-L of 16 February 2020</p> <p>1. Elaborating and introducing a module of an electronic pass, prescription, sick leave certificate.</p> <p>2. Developing and introducing a module for disease registries</p> <p>3. Digitising medical documents, reports and registers.</p>

	<p>4. Activities for raising awareness about the patient record.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 8 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity of fully introducing the electronic healthcare system according to the time limits prescribed by Order of the Minister of Healthcare No 456-L (hereinafter Order) of 16 February 2020.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Order defines the electronic healthcare development programme and those actions that need to be implemented for full introduction of the electronic healthcare, particularly the introduction of electronic prescription, electronic disability sheets, introduction of electronic referrals, testing and applying telemedicine system, digitisation of the registers being maintained by medical institutions, digitisation of documents provided to the population etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Attaching importance to the circumstance that digitisation is modern and important at the level of the country, it is necessary to carry out document circulation in an electronic version also in the healthcare sector — to gradually make a transition from paper document circulation to the digital one, enhance the opportunities of the population for using the system, introduce telemedicine etc.</p> <p>2. The expected outcome in case of implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to fully introduce an electronic healthcare system by ensuring the improvement of the infrastructures of the electronic healthcare system, introduction of the new services, ensuring the access to healthcare services, increase in the level of the patient satisfaction.</p>
15.	<p>15.1. Reviewing the mechanisms and plans of mutual co-operation between the Ministry of Healthcare and the Ministry of Defence</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action stems from sub-point 10 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and the requirement of mutual co-operation of interested fields envisaged by various republican plans of the Republic of Armenia, as well as from the objective of implementing the fast and mutually co-operated activities in the fields of healthcare and defence in time of the martial law, reviewing the rapid response mechanisms, as well as necessary capacities and the systems and plans of expansion and mobilisation thereof, and introduction of new mechanisms, when necessary.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>The mechanisms for mutual co-operation in the fields of healthcare and defence are envisaged by various republican plans of the Republic of Armenia, but there is a necessity to review them, strengthen them, face the challenges having arisen before the country and bring together the existing resources and powers.</p> <p>1.1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to regularly review the mechanisms and plans for mutual co-operation between the Ministry of Healthcare and the Ministry of Defence based on the situation and further legislative amendments.</p> <p>To carry out the review of the co-operation mechanisms and plans regularly based on the situation and further legislative amendments.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to have flexible rapid response mechanisms in time of the martial law, active systems for the necessary capacities, as well as expansion and mobilisation thereof.</p>
	<p>15.2. Reviewing the mechanisms and plans of mutual co-operation between the Ministry of Healthcare and the Ministry of Emergency Situations</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action stems from sub-point 10 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the requirement of mutual co-operation of the interested fields provided for by various republican plans of the Republic of Armenia, as well as from the requirement of reviewing the flexible rapid response mechanisms and the procedures for maintaining the resources in the state material reserve, preparing professional potential, as well as from the requirement of having active systems for mobilising the necessary capacities and abilities.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Mechanisms for mutual co-operation between the fields of the healthcare and emergency situations are envisaged by different republican plans of the Republic of Armenia, but there is a need to review and strengthen them, update the procedures for distributing the existing resources and powers.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to review and periodically update the mechanisms and plans for mutual co-operation between the Ministry of Healthcare and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, jointly assess the newly emerging risks and elaborating mechanisms for effective counteraction.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to have flexible rapid response mechanisms and reserve logistics resources, professional</p>

	potential, active systems for mobilising the necessary capacities and abilities in emergency situations.
16.	<p>16.1 Creating and internationally accrediting a Medical Emergency Team (MET)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the action stems from sub-point 9 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and the fulfilment of the points of the programme "Stronger Together. Joint operation between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia for counteracting the cross-border emergency situations" upon the initiative of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ABD) German non-governmental organisation, which is aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributing to the introduction of the regional co-operation mechanisms by paying special attention to the expansion of the capacities and establishing administration systems for emergency situations in the field of healthcare of the two countries, • improving the cross-border co-operation between the healthcare systems of the Republic of Armenia and Georgia and the level of access to urgent medical aid by creating Medical Emergency Teams (MET) in the Republic of Armenia and Georgia, which will be certified in accordance with the certification process of the World Health Organisation (WHO). <p>1.1.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The first meeting with regard to the programme was held in 24 March 2021, within the scope whereof recommendations have been made concerning the harmonisation of the teams of the two countries, envisaged steps and introduced mechanisms, implemented activities and expected outcomes, as well as the scopes of co-operation between the administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia and Georgia.</p> <p>An event dedicated to the official start of the programme was organised in 11 June 2021. During the event the parties from the Republic of Armenia and Georgia presented and considered the possible mechanisms for co-operation. The event ended by signing Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of [Internally] Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and "Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Georgia" (ASB) German agency.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A meeting was envisaged — during 12-14 July 2021 — between the Head of the Office and Staff of ASB in the Republic of Armenia, and the representatives of ASB Office in Georgia, where issues related to forming urgent medical teams and the further steps have been considered. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia was also involved in the process of implementing the programme.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Creation and certification of Medical Emergency Teams (MET) in the Republic of Armenia and Georgia, harmonisation of teams, training of the team members, increase in the level of urgent medical aid in urgent situations, improvement of cross-border co-operation.</p>

17.	<p>17.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the strategy of the development of the national laboratory system and the 2022-2026 action plan stemming therefrom" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of Annex to the Law on "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 11 and 16 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the necessity for the legislative regulations for co-ordinating the unified, standardised activity of diagnostic laboratories in the Republic of Armenia, applying the quality, safe, comparable standard practices in compliance with the international requirements, increasing the quality and availability of laboratory services, defining the mechanisms for controlling thereof, ensuring the modernisation of continuous educational programmes for the laboratory specialists.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Republic of Armenia has a complex laboratory system consisting of diagnostic laboratories both with a status of a state and private, as well as independent legal entity, and operating in the composition of the institutions under different agencies, which operate under separate, non-coordinated, non-standard practices, some of them apply out-of-date methods, do not even have basic conditions of infrastructure. The requirements of licensing the laboratory activity functioning in the country and the applied control mechanisms still need development and do not ensure control in compliance with the international requirements, there are no national programmes for quality assessment of laboratory services, reference laboratories are not appointed yet, no reference standards of laboratory indicators are defined, instructional materials dedicated to the management, biosafety and life support of the laboratory quality partially involved in the educational and continuous professional development programmes for the laboratory specialists, there is no quality control of "In Vitro" diagnostic equipment at the national level, as a result whereof the results of the diagnostic examinations conducted in various laboratories are not comparable, reliable and lack probative grounds.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case of having co-implementing body of the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Upon the approval of the draft, the strategic programme will define actions the implementation whereof will ensure the improvement of the legislation, quality management in the laboratories of the Ministry of Healthcare and those of agencies, standardisation, certification, modernisation, stable development of the activity.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of adopting the draft a National Laboratory System unifying the diagnostic laboratories will be formed, which — due to the centralised management — will have modernised laboratories having standard procedures in compliance with the international standards, the outcomes provided whereby will be reliable, comparable, accurate and with probative grounds. As a result of the development of the national laboratory system quality and affordable laboratory services will reach 90% by 2025.</p>
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	<p>17.2. Elaborating a draft amendment to the norms concerning the quality of drinking water</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 2, 3 and 11 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the implementation of point 1 of Chapter 16 "Healthcare" of part 5 of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof, the implementation whereof must be ensured by the authorised state administration body in accordance with points 3 and 4 of part 1 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ensuring sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, for the purpose of preventing the communicable diseases conditioned by drinking water Order of the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia No 876 of 25 December 2002 and Order No 803 of 29 November 2002 are operating in the Republic of Armenia, whereby the requirements submitted for the quality of the drinking water and implementation of monitoring are prescribed, but the requirements stipulated thereby do not fully comply with EU standards.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case of having co-implementing body of the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Reviewing Order of the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia operating in the Republic of Armenia No 876 of 25 December 2002 by bringing into compliance with EU Directive N98/83 on the quality of water intended for human consumption of 3 November 1998.</p> <p>The co-implementing bodies of the action express opinions on the draft elaborated, participate in considerations organised for the draft and provide expert opinion, when necessary.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Reviewed requirements of Quality of Water for Human Consumption and Control Monitoring thereof, as a result — prevention of communicable diseases conditioned by the quality of water in accordance with the international approaches.</p>
	<p>17.3. Elaborating draft Decision of the Prime Minister “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 22-N of 17 January 2013” and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 1 of point 2 of the list of the 2012-2026 actions of the Strategic Programme approved by sub-point 2 of point 1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1913-N of 29 December 2011, sub-point 9 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. Taking into consideration the changes of the structure and composition of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as changes in the persons involved in the individual composition of the inter-agency commission for applying the International health (medical-sanitary) regulations, preventing and fighting against the communicable diseases and co-ordinating the activities of the universal laboratory network approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 22-A of 17 January 2013, a necessity has arisen to bring the composition of the mentioned commission into compliance with the current conditions.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The individual composition and rules of procedure of the inter-agency commission for applying the international health (medical-sanitary) regulations, preventing and fighting against the communicable diseases and co-ordinating the activities of the universal laboratory network were approved in 2013 and it is not operating currently due to the changes of the structure of the Government, as well as that of the officials involved in the institutions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case of having co-implementing body of the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>To update — with participation of all the institutions included — the individual composition of the inter-agency commission for applying the international health (medical-sanitary) regulations, preventing and fighting against the communicable diseases, co-ordinating the activities of the universal laboratory network, as well as bring the rules of procedure thereof in compliance with current conditions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The individual composition of the inter-agency commission for applying the international health (medical-sanitary) regulations, preventing and fighting against the communicable diseases, co-ordinating the activities of the universal laboratory network, will be updated, as well as the rules of procedure thereof will be brought in compliance with current conditions.</p>
	<p>17.4 Ensuring the implementation of the Actions envisaged by the 2021-2025 National Immunoprophylaxis Programme approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 2129-N of 17 December 2020</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The organisation and implementation of the immunoprophylaxis activities is one of the fundamental directions of public healthcare which ensures radical elimination and reduction of treatable communicable diseases, prevention of deaths as a result thereof. Effective fighting against the treatable diseases, including the organisation and</p>

	<p>implementation of immunoprophylaxis activities, is one of the current issues of the healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia. In this context, importance is attached to ensuring the implementation of the Actions envisaged by the "2021-2025 National Immunoprophylaxis Programme" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 2129-N of 17 December 2020.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The epidemic situation with regard to treatable communicable diseases is favourable in the Republic of Armenia. A number of vaccine-preventable diseases — diphtheria, poliomyelitis, newborn stupor, local cases of measles and rubella — are not recorded in the Republic, as well as pertussis and epidemic parotitis are recorded in the form of rare cases. Cases of poliomyelitis have not been recorded in the Republic since 1995. Cases of diphtheria have not been recorded since 2000. The rare cases of stupor are recorded mainly among the unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated adult population, the newborn stupor is not recorded at all, local cases of measles have not been registered since 2007, the contracted cases are mostly recorded among the persons that are unvaccinated, or persons having refused to vaccinate or are incompletely vaccinated, reduction of hepatitis B, absence of acute cases among the 14-year-old children. However, in recent years there has been a rapid reduction both in coverage rates of timely and complete vaccinations, as a result of continuous tendency whereof it may not be possible to maintain the existing achievements and accomplishments.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the above-mentioned issue, it is necessary to implement the actions envisaged by the "2021-2025 National Immunoprophylaxis Programme" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2129-N of 17 December 2020, by ensuring close co-operation with other interested agencies.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The above-mentioned action is expected to ensure the high rate of coverage of the preventive vaccinations against the treatable communicable diseases and the favourable epidemic situation in the Republic, zero cases of chickenpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis will be recorded, laboratory diagnosis of the overriding diseases will be ensured, a registry of the potential dangers of and threats to public health will be created. The implementation of the Action will contribute to the reduction of mortality of children under the age of 5 up to 8.2% and the reduction of the index of the premature mortality caused as a result of communicable diseases (under the age of 65) up to 0.9% by 2025.</p>
	<p>17.5 Introducing new vaccinations, upon necessity, increasing the demand for vaccinations</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The policy implemented in recent years in the field of immunoprophylaxis is brought in compliance with the approaches and standards of the World Health Organisation. For the purpose of settling the above-mentioned issue importance is attached to the introduction of the new vaccinations — upon necessary and the epidemiological</p>

	<p>instruction — as well as to the increase in the demand for vaccinations among the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the healthcare system of the Republic has faced another issue, <i>i.e.</i> to mitigate the impact conditioned both by the anti-vaccine activity and the pandemic of the coronavirus disease and maintain the achievements made with great difficulty with regard to the treatable communicable diseases. By taking into consideration the importance and effectiveness of vaccinations with regard to preventing the communicable diseases the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia adopted a new strategic approach, <i>i.e.</i> to introduce new vaccines in the National Vaccination Calendar.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the above-mentioned issue it is necessary to ensure the introduction of the new vaccinations, upon necessity and the epidemiological instruction, as well as the increase in the demand for vaccinations among the population.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The above-mentioned action is expected to ensure the reduction of morbidity of treatable communicable diseases in the Republic of Armenia, including that of the chickenpox and the coronavirus disease, prevention of the cases of deaths caused thereby and ensuring immunity of the population against communicable diseases.</p>
18.	<p>18.1 Testing for suspected cases of the coronavirus disease — early detection of cases</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The epidemic situation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) still continues to remain tense in the world conditioned by four new troublesome strains of the circulating COVID-19 (VoC) — English, South African, Brazilian and Indian. For the purpose of preventing the incursion and further spread of the new strains into the country, the World Health Organisation urges all the countries to remain vigilant and continue the implementation of the preventive measures to reduce the risk of the spread of the infection.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>From 3 February 2020 and 21 October 2021, 1958792 laboratory examinations have been conducted in the Republic of Armenia for detecting the coronavirus disease, as a result whereof the processes of early detection of the cases, control of the contacts, timely provision of medical aid and services to the patients have been ensured.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>For the purpose of reducing the rates of mortality and morbidity of the coronavirus disease it is necessary to continue — through conducting laboratory testings — the early detection of the suspected cases in compliance with the standard characteristic of the case of the coronavirus disease.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the actions implemented it is expected to reduce the rates of morbidity and mortality from the coronavirus disease, to reduce the healthcare burden.</p>
	<p>18.2 Epidemiological examination of cases of the coronavirus disease</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The epidemic situation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) still continues to remain tense in the world conditioned by four new troublesome strains of the circulating COVID-19 (VoC) — English, South African, Brazilian and Indian. For the purpose of preventing the incursion and further spread of the new strains into the country, the World Health Organisation urges all the countries to remain vigilant and continue the implementation of the preventive measures to reduce the risk of the spread of the infection. The epidemiological examination of cases is aimed at reducing the risk of spread of the infection as a result of early detection of the cases, revealing the scope of the contacts, undertaking relevant preventive and epidemiological actions.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The epidemic situation conditioned by COVID-19 in the world continues to be tense. As of 22 October (07:37pm CEST), 243,369,763 confirmed cases of the disease have been recorded worldwide, 461.628 of which are new cases, and 4,947,453 — fatal cases (2.03%).</p> <p>In the course of the last 14 days 21178 cases of morbidity have been recorded in the Republic of Armenia (715.7 morbidity cases per 100.000 population) which has increased by 59% compared to the previous period (13320 case, 450.2 morbidity cases per 100.000 population). Currently, the results of the epidemiological examination of cases enable to control the risk of the spread of the infection both in organised centres and among the population as a result of implementing actions to identify and prevent the circle of contacts.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In line with the international approaches it is necessary to continue to ensure the epidemiological observation and epidemiological actions against COVID-19, which imply conducting examinations of the suspected and confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease, determining the scope of the persons having had in contact, assessing the risks, mapping, implementing preventive and epidemiological actions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Identifying risks based on the research conducted in-home and organised centres and submitting to the interested agencies for organising relevant</p>

	actions.
	<p>18.3 Revising legal acts, elaborating new legal acts based on the new approaches of WHO</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The epidemic situation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) still continues to remain tense in the world. The World Health Organisation regularly reviews the preventive actions of the coronavirus disease based on the evidence-based medicine and present recommendations thereon by urging to remain vigilant and continue the implementation of the preventive actions to reduce the risk of spread of the infection.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The preventive and anti-epidemic actions of the coronavirus disease are elaborated and localised based on the new approaches of WHO which is an ongoing process by taking into consideration the rapid change of the pathogen.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of reducing the rates of morbidity and mortality from the coronavirus disease, it is necessary to continue elaborating the legal acts regulating the anti-epidemic actions in line with the approaches of WHO.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the actions implemented, it is expected to reduce the rates of morbidity and mortality from the coronavirus disease.</p>
	<p>18.4 Treatment of the cases of the coronavirus disease</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Armenia considers the prevention of the disease and restraint of the spread its overriding objective.</p> <p>By taking into consideration the growing number of the patients with coronavirus disease in Armenia, the existing volumes and capacities in the national healthcare system, in 2020 — during the first wave of the disease — the whole system undertook to strategically prepare for the coronavirus threat, detect it, and respond appropriately. Within the scope of the above-mentioned, new medical organisations — related to the demand for available beds at that moment — are re-profiled in Yerevan and marzes of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of regularly seeing</p>

	<p>the patients diagnosed with coronavirus disease and providing proper medical aid and services. When necessary, partial modernisation of re-profiled medical organisations is carried out in an operative manner.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In March 2020, when COVID-19 was first diagnosed in Armenia, the total number of the infectious beds constituted 621 ("Nork" Infection Clinical Hospital (300 beds) and "Armenicum" Clinical Centre (52 beds) in Yerevan, and infection hospitals of Gyumri (40 beds) and Vanadzor (15 beds), as well as in multifunctional medical institutions which have departments of communicable disease (214 in total) in Yerevan and marzes of the Republic of Armenia).</p> <p>During 2020-2021, along with the development of the second, third and fourth waves of coronavirus disease, a necessity has arisen to regularly re-profile in full or in part around 28 medical institutions of the capital and marzes of the Republic of Armenia (15 in Yerevan and 13 in marzes, around 3000 beds, in total), including one of the largest medical institutions of the Republic of Armenia, that is "St. Grigor Lusavorich" MC, which is still operating for the purpose of carrying out only the treatment of COVID-19 infection. To properly organise the treatment of the patients some marz hospitals have been renovated. Depending on the capacity of the medical institution and the number of patients served they have been equipped with necessary medical equipment (including oxygen concentrators, artificial lung ventilation (ALV) equipment, monitors, laryngoscopes etc.), as well as have been provided with ambulance vehicles.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the regularly increasing number of the patients, the mentioned action is of regular nature.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Currently, in parallel with the development of the fifth wave of the disease, when the number of the patients and persons hospitalised with COVID-19 only increases daily, a necessity has arisen to strengthen the resources, involve new resources and expand the services to provide medical aid to all the patients who need inpatient treatment (including intensive therapy service).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action admitting the patients diagnosed with the coronavirus disease and the treatment thereof with due volume and quality will be ensured to the extent possible.</p>
	<p>18.5 Raising awareness of the population about preventive and anti-epidemic actions for the coronavirus disease</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The epidemic situation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) still continues to remain tense in the world conditioned by four new troublesome strains of the circulating COVID-19 (VoC) — English, South African, Brazilian and Indian. For the purpose of preventing the incursion and further spread of the new strains into the country, the</p>

	<p>World Health Organisation urges all the countries to remain vigilant and continue the implementation of the preventive measures to reduce the risk of the spread of the infection.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since the public communication is one of the key elements of managing the state of emergency, information materials have been prepared and published on daily basis on the official website and social networks of the Ministry of Healthcare aimed at ensuring the public awareness by informing the public on the coronavirus pandemic, safety rules and behaviour aimed at reducing the risk of infection, as well as current situation, decisions to be made and measures to be taken. Posters aimed at public awareness have also been elaborated and printed which were posted at public places.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Preparation of the information on the official website of the Ministry of Healthcare and social networks and publishing thereof on a daily basis by informing the public on the coronavirus pandemic, safety rules and behaviour aimed at reducing the risk of infection, as well as current situation, decisions to be made and measures to be taken.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Actions implemented, it is expected to reduce the rates of morbidity and mortality from the coronavirus disease.</p>
19.	<p>19.1 Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public healthcare" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 2, 11 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is related to the Constitutional amendments made in the Republic of Armenia. Based on the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia all the grounds for the activity in the field of healthcare must be prescribed by law. Currently, introduction and implementation of new approaches and ideas is solely based on the regulations of the law. At the same time, elaborating and approving the law is conditioned by the social relations related to maintaining the public health in the Republic of Armenia, principles of state policy for maintaining the public health, conditions and procedures for implementing and protecting the rights of natural and legal entities in the field of maintaining public health, restrictions of rights and freedoms, their obligations, coercive measures and procedures for the application thereof, maintaining, organising the public health and the necessity of defining the economic and legal grounds.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Currently, the relations linked to ensuring the public health and the sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ensuring sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population of the Republic of Armenia" which was adopted in 1992</p>

	<p>and needs to be supplemented and updated from the perspective of defining the concepts of public health and healthcare, regulating current legal relations. Currently, the public health, being an important component of the healthcare system, does not have a complete legislative regulation and due to the lack of the legislative framework there is no internationally adopted approach for ensuring the public health in the country, the health of the population is not viewed as a basic human right and key inter-agency issue, the population is not fully aware of its rights, obligations and responsibilities.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case of having co-implementing body of the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>The relations related to ensuring public health will be regulated upon the approval of the draft, the legal grounds for ensuring the public health will be prescribed, as a result whereof active mechanisms will be introduced to prevent the dangers, threats and risks posed to public health. The law will enshrine those guarantees provided by the state, which are aimed at preventing and excluding the impact of socio-economic, behavioural, harmful and dangerous environmental factors on human health and ensuring favourable conditions for the viability of present and future generations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of adopting the draft, the law will enshrine those guarantees provided by the state, which are aimed at preventing and excluding the impact of socio-economic, behavioural, harmful and dangerous environmental factors on human health and ensuring favourable conditions for the viability of present and future generations.</p>
	<p>19.2. Adopting the Decision of the Government "On approving the national action plan of safety of the public healthcare"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from Article 5 of the Law "On ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population of the Republic of Armenia", sub-points 2, 3 and 9 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by ensuring the stability of introducing the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Republic of Armenia and continuous development of capacities required by the regulations.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing is</p> <p>Currently, the Republic of Armenia has created all the capacities required by the International Health Regulations (2005), however, they need continuous development conditioned by new international approaches, diseases newly emerging and making a comeback, emergence of still unknown sources of dangers and threats, development of science and technology.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The capacities required by the International Health Regulations (2005), the continuous development thereof will be coordinated and comprehensive and will ensure stability of introducing the regulations in case of complex strategic planning and implementation thereof. It is recommended to assess the current state and risks of introducing the rules, conduct gap analysis and elaborate relevant national action plan based thereon which is called</p>

	<p>"National Action Plan for Safety of Public Healthcare" by the World Health Organisation, since the capacities required by the rules finally ensure the safety of public healthcare.</p> <p>The primary step toward this assessment involves conducting a joint external assessment in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO). In September –November of 2023 the state government bodies will conduct self-assessment, subsequently in December a joint external assessment with international experts is planned. WHO plans to present the outcomes of external assessment to the Ministry of Healthcare in January 2024, which may serve as a ground for developing "The National Action Plan on Public healthcare safety".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>It is envisaged to elaborate a national action plan upon inter-agency co-operation, since the public healthcare is ensured by the activity of the interested sectors, which will define the legal grounds aimed at the safety of the public healthcare as a result whereof the Republic of Armenia will ensure the stability of introduction of the International Health Regulations and the continuous development of the capacities required.</p>
	<p>19.3. Risk Identification through environmental study and study of population morbidity, elaboration of package of recommendations for preventive actions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 2, 3, 11 and 12 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at revealing the risks conditioned by the impact of mining and metallurgy, as well as the operation of other manufacturing industrial enterprises through studies on the environment and morbidity of the population, elaborating a package of recommendations on preventive actions.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The environmental pollution because of mining, as well as that conditioned by other manufacturing activity is in air, water and soil. Soil and air pollution with rainwater and snowmelt runoff is transferred to open reservoirs, the agricultural lands of a number of communities are irrigated with that water. Thus, the environmental pollution may penetrate into the food chain both by contaminated soil, and irrigation water.</p> <p>The morbidity of population with malignant neoplasms, neurological diseases, congenital defects and blood circulation system diseases may be conditioned by this pollution and have high rates.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Assess the impact of mining and other industries on the health of the population in the affected communities of different marzes of the Republic of Armenia along with the contamination of soil, air and open reservoirs by mining, also assessing the possible impact of the food chain.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p>

	Elaborating the package of recommendations of preventive actions based on the identification of the risks conditioned by the impact of mining and metallurgy, as well as the operation of other manufacturing industrial enterprises through studies on the environment and morbidity of the population.
20.	<p>20.1. Assessment of preparedness of the healthcare system response to outbreaks of communicable diseases and pandemics</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 27 of part 1 of Article 2 and part 4 of Article 49 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On medical assistance and service to the population".</p> <p>The epidemic of the new coronavirus disease showed that Armenia, amongst other countries, was not ready for it, where there was a need to make urgent decisions in the emergency situation created. The epidemic also resulted in the deterioration of the socio-economic situation in the country, the consequences whereof will take years to overcome.</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned, it is necessary to carry out comprehensive studies of the organisations of the healthcare system of Armenia aimed at assessing the needs and strengthening the capacities of the latter for the purpose of ensuring the availability of key medical institutions ready for rapid response in case of possible outbreaks of new communicable diseases and pandemics, as well as providing the necessary resources.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the rapid and effective response of the healthcare system in case of outbreaks of communicable diseases and pandemics, a comprehensive study of the organisations of the healthcare system of Armenia with the assessment of the needs of the latter has not been carried out yet.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Ministry of Healthcare elaborated and submitted to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria a grant programme application on supporting the actions for fighting against the new coronavirus disease, wherein, among other actions, it is envisaged to conduct an assessment of readiness to respond to outbreaks of communicable diseases and pandemics of the healthcare system in case of further possible outbreaks of communicable diseases for the purpose of ensuring rapid and effective response.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Mobilisation of the resources for rapid response to outbreaks of communicable diseases and pandemics based on the study conducted and the needs assessed.</p>
21.	21.1. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On the strategy of improving the quality of healthcare services and approving the action plan stemming therefrom"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:

The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, Article 49 of the Law "On medical assistance and service to the population". Improving the quality of the healthcare services and establishing, introducing and continuously applying relevant mechanisms for ensuring the quality improvement are deemed as the most important component of the healthcare reforms. The strategy of this sector is aimed at ensuring safe, effective, human-centred, timely and affordable healthcare services that are useful from the perspective of using the existing resources and services and in compliance with the quality indicators and standards defined.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Around 53% preventable deaths in the Republic of Armenia are conditioned by poor quality health services (2018). The issues related to the quality of the healthcare services result in unnecessary waste of the resources introduced. Subdivisions responsible for the quality assurance in the structure of the authorised public administration body in the healthcare sector and in institutions implementing medical aid and services are missing, mechanisms — promoting the quality — for control and monitoring are not introduced. The standards for quality of the activity of the medical staff, tools for assessing the satisfaction of the population and the mechanisms for the control thereof are also missing.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Solutions for the quality improvement of healthcare services will be recommended in the following directions:

- Introducing quality management mechanisms at all the administrative levels of the healthcare system.
- Improving capacities of the healthcare workers responsible for the quality assessment and management of the healthcare.
- Defining the measurable indicators of the quality at the level of the primary healthcare unit, hospitals and healthcare system.
- Fully introducing the electronic information system, collecting, elaborating and using data.
- Improving the referral system.
- Assessing the satisfaction of the population with the healthcare services.

Elaborating new guidelines, standards and regulations for quality assurance.

Elaborating a system for supporting the quality assurance.

Creating new opportunities for continuous vocational education, elaborating new mechanism for assessing the vocational capacities.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The activities aimed at improving the quality of the healthcare services will mainly influence the following quality areas — leadership, information,

	regulation, standards, organisational capacities, involvement and satisfaction of the population.
	<p>21.2 Elaborating and introducing the clinical guidelines, the rules of procedure and other documents for treating patients</p> <p>1.1. Necessity for and objective of the action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 7 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and points 30-32 of part 1 of Article 2 of the Law "On medical assistance and service to the population".</p> <p>The duly elaborated and introduced clinical guidelines, practices and procedures for patient management directly impact the quality and safety of the treatment and diagnosis, allow to co-ordinate current medical information, reduce the qualitative and quantitative disparities of the medical services being provided, ensure the effective use of the resources, implement programmes for quality control and continuous vocational education. Taking into consideration the fact that in accordance with the Law "On medical assistance and service to the population" the practices and procedures for patient management are mandatory, therefore the role of the mentioned Documents in providing medical aid and services is more important.</p> <p>Thus, this action aims at filling the existing gap by creating a regulatory legal base for particular diseases and clinical conditions.</p> <p>1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>It should be mentioned that such an action has also been envisaged to implement in the 2017 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as significant work has been done in this regard but it is still not enough, and the base of clinical guidelines, practices and procedures for patient management in the healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia is considerably incomplete.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The availability and practical introduction of clinical guidelines, practices and procedures for patient management will have comprehensive influence on the whole healthcare system.</p> <p>Documents — envisaged for the healthcare workers of the medical institutions implementing medical aid and services — will be elaborated and introduced in outpatient and inpatient settings which will considerably reduce the disproportion in the quality and volume of medical services, particularly at metropolitan and marz levels, non-designated guidance for outpatient diagnostic examinations will be reduced, the quantity of unsubstantiated hospitalisations will reduce, patients will be provided with medical aid and services in compliance with modern medical norms. Besides, the continuation of these actions will contribute to the increase in effectiveness of continuous professional development.</p>
22.	<p>22.1. 50% increase in the salaries of the doctor and narrowly focused specialists providing primary healthcare services by 2026</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 which is aimed at ensuring 50% increase in salaries of the doctor and narrowly focused specialists providing primary healthcare services by 2026.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the relations related to the remuneration for the work of the employees providing primary healthcare in the Republic of Armenia are regulated by Order of the Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia No 1791-A of 24 July 2014 and other legal acts.</p> <p>Currently, a necessity has arisen to review the mechanisms for remuneration, in relation to the adoption whereof a necessity will arise to make amendments in the relevant legal acts regulating the given relations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into consideration that current funding of the outpatient-polyclinic medical aid and services per capita constitutes around AMD 20.0 billion. Around AMD 10.0 billion is necessary for increasing the salary of the healthcare worker of the primary healthcare unit by 50%. During 2022-2026, an increase constituting around AMD 2 billion is needed per year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>By 2026, the 50% increase in salaries of the doctor and narrowly focused specialists providing primary healthcare services will give the opportunity to provide decent remuneration to healthcare workers and ensure the quality of the work provided.</p>
23	<p>23.1 Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the 2022-2026 action plan of the development of human potential of the healthcare system" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The implementation of the Action stems from Article 35 of the Law "On medical assistance and service to the population", sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>To provide medical institutions with qualified specialists with higher, postgraduate and secondary vocational education through preparing, effective planning and managing the human potential in the sector of healthcare for the purpose of ensuring the long-term stability of the healthcare system and the quality of service.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Planning and managing for the purpose of keeping the balance of human potential in a country is a too difficult task. It involves many actors and interested parties. Unequal distribution of human potential also contributes to unequal distribution of medical services, inefficient waste of resources, which make it more difficult to settle the issue.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Defining methodology-based normatives for calculating the current and perspective demand for the healthcare personnel necessary in the Republic of Armenia (assessment of workload in any marz medical institution by using the "Workload Indicators of Staffing Needs" elaborated by WHO) and formation of necessary specialists (including formation of the list of their education degree and skill mix based on the average and long-term healthcare needs of each marz), as well as unified and comprehensive information database of the healthcare human potential.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adopting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the 2022-2026 action plan for developing the human potential of the healthcare system" will ensure the availability of the human potential relevant to the quantitative and qualitative standards of the sector, development of the personnel potential in compliance with the healthcare needs of the country, requirements prescribed by the legislation and the situation of the labour market.</p>
	<p>23.2. Elaborating and adopting the Package of necessary legal acts for the purpose of introducing the licensing system for healthcare workers</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as from the necessity of increasing the level of the professional knowledge of doctors and creating healthy competition between the specialists.</p> <p>This action is aimed at introducing individual licensing system of doctors based on the continuous professional development.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, it is not the doctors who are licensed for the purpose of implementing medical aid and services in the Republic of Armenia, but another legal entity or sole proprietor who meets the requirements-conditions for licensing prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Meeting the requirement of staffing prescribed by the legislation is restricted by the availability of specialist having relevant education and/or qualification, as well as having undergone trainings during the last 5 years.</p> <p>In the current situation, a number of issues are emerging, such as low motivation of the medical staff with regard to the provision of quality medical aid and services, since the latter's salary does not mainly depend on its work quality, as well as failure to hold the doctor liable for providing poor quality medical aid and services.</p> <p>Currently, the licensing system for healthcare workers is operating in a number of developed countries, such as Belgium, Germany, Finland,</p>

	<p>Denmark, the USA, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of developing the healthcare system, having quality personnel it is expected to introduce an individual licensing system for the healthcare workers by providing the healthcare workers with the opportunity to obtain a license on their own and engage in professional activity.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action the healthcare workers will be provided with the opportunity to receive an individual license for implementing medical aid and services, which, in its turn, will serve as a basis to engage in independent professional activities. Besides, as a result of introducing this system it is expected to increase the quality of medical aid and services, exclude the dependence of the specialist on the medical institution, provide the patient with the opportunity to exercise his/her right to choose the doctor on his/her own, restrict the doctor's activity through depriving of the license in case of a mistake made by the latter.</p>
	<p>23.3. Adopting the legal acts necessary for introducing the clinical residency and implementing the pilot programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Health approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>Introducing the standardisation process and measurable indicators will create the opportunity in the stage of forming the medical personnel, as well as at the end thereof, to have the chance to assess the education quality of the personnel and their competence for independent activity.</p> <p>This action is aimed at localising the model of classic residency, revealing the issues related to the introduction through the pilot programme and recommending the possible methods for the settlement thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current postgraduate medical education system of the Republic of Armenia needs to be assessed and reviewed. Professional considerations with participation of international experts in the sector have been undertaken by the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia, as a result whereof the existing issues of the sector have been identified, including the lack of the standards for selecting specialists, uniform educational programmes, current quality assessment standards, standard approaches and criteria for assessing final results, independent and impartial bodies for assessing and supervising.</p> <p>The classic model of residency implies availability of measurable indicators in all the stages of the activity of the medical education system starting from the number of those getting specialisation and choice of each person getting specialisation, ending with the assessment of the preparedness of</p>

	<p>the independent activity of those getting specialisation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will create an opportunity to identify and analyse the issues arising from the introduction of the classical model of residency and make recommendations for the settlement thereof. In the classic model of residency the choice of the person getting specialisation, calculation of the maximum possible number of the persons getting specialisation, assessment of the education quality and final results of the person getting specialisation, independence of the bodies carrying out the assessment, the powers and the defined control thereof are based on standardised and measurable indicators and involve relevant legal regulations which makes the control of the quality of the process possible.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The existence and operation of a standardized postgraduate education system will be reflected in the quality of medical services provided, since quality personnel potential is one of the important components of quality activities in the field.</p>
	<p>23.4. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On strategy of development of nursing and approving the action plan stemming therefrom"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Health approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>Modern universal factors and challenges ("2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals", universal health coverage, importance of the cost-effectiveness of medical aid and services, rising chronic diseases, aging population, rising environmental hazards, climate change, unhealthy lifestyle choices and habits of the population) from one hand, from the other hand the opportunities for modern technological progress make you review the current functions of the nurses, approaches to education and continuous vocational development for the purpose of enhancing the role of nurses in the provision of healthcare services.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, nurses are working as attaches of doctors and have restricted participation in achieving sustainable development goals, including universal health coverage, while we have a large army of nurses and in case of creating opportunities that potential needs to have an effective participation in achieving the 3rd Goal of the Sustainable Development of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations (Ensure healthy life and promote well-being of all irrespective of age).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Upon the adoption of the strategy steps will be taken aimed at developing of nursing including improvement of the basic and continuous education system for nursing, reviewing the professional list of nurses and elaborating the characteristics of qualification, introducing the model for higher</p>

	<p>education for nurses, partnership co-operation for improving the capacities and expanding the functions of nurses.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adopting the Law "Strategy on Development of Nursing" will provide an opportunity to create guidance for, management of processes aimed at reforms of nursing, improve the system for basic and ongoing nursing education and introduce a higher education model for nursing.</p>
	<p>23.5. Launching the register of medical workers and integrating databases maintained by state bodies</p> <p>1.1. Necessity for and objective of the action:</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from Article 9 of the Law "On medical aid to and service of the population", sub-point 13 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The register of medical workers is an important tool for management and strengthening of public health of the country targeted at ensuring disposal of complete information on medical workers in real time. The necessity for this Action is conditioned also by the circumstance of having a complete and unified information database on medical workers.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to launch the register of medical workers and integrate it into databases maintained by other bodies.</p> <p>1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Having a register of medical workers is a requirement of the Law "On medical aid to and service of the population", whereon the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the procedure for formation of the register of medical workers" has been elaborated and circulated.</p> <p>Existence of databases of healthcare labour force that are correct and updated in real time is strongly needed for planning healthcare labour force, organising targeted instruction of medical specialists, and certification of healthcare professionals. The register is the main source of information of the medical personnel, and healthcare services providers are a primary source for entering information related to medical service and patients in the healthcare electronic data system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Launch of the register will provide an opportunity to conduct the collection, recording, maintenance, study, analysis, projection of medical workers carrying out activities in the field of healthcare and, in cases provided for by law, their transfer and integration of the system into such databases as "Taxpayer-3" of the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, "State Population Register" of the Police of the Republic of Armenia, "Kinship System" of the Electronic Management System of Civil Status Acts Registration Agency of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, "Unified Information System for Management of Education" of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

24	<p>24.1. Approving the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the Action Plan for Reforms in Primary Health Care Unit in the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and operation of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-point 2 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, which is aimed at ensuring the modernisation, ongoing development of the primary health care (PHC) unit and increasing the effectiveness thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation:</p> <p>There are a number of issues needing solution in the PHC unit, which do not contribute to the improvement of the primary health indicators of the population. Despite the circumstance that the main services provided in the PHC unit are free-of-charge since 2006, their consumption still remains at an unsatisfactory level, comprising around 4.3 visits per one resident per year, which is around twice lower than in 1990, as well as than the current indicator of 27 countries of the European Union.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Introduction of the Programme for Reforms in PHC unit and implementation of the reforms envisages increasing responsibility of specialists of the PHC unit in the maintenance of health of the population, strengthening the functions of the PHC doctor, enhancing preventive medicine, and decreasing the number of in-patient cases.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of introducing the Action Plan for Reforms in PHC, paths of reforms, solutions recommended for issues revealed in the primary health care unit, main provisions of the policy recommended will be defined upon the adoption of relevant legal acts.</p> <p>It is projected that as a result of implementation of the Actions, the number of visits to PHC institutions will grow to 6 visits per person per year, and the number of cases of in-patient, as well as of urgent and emergency medical aid will decrease by 10%.</p>
25	<p>25.1 Elaborating and introducing a master-plan of the structure of in-patient services and an integrated model for provision of services based on clearly formulated indicators</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>In the recent years, the healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia is being continuously modernised, which contributes to the increase in the quality of and access to services provided. Nevertheless, the system still needs reform both from the institutional and contextual perspective. Currently, developed countries have adopted the policy for providing a comprehensive healthcare coverage to their citizens which makes the</p>

	<p>medical aid and services provided as complete, effective and targeted as possible.</p> <p>Taking into account the circumstance that the healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia is also targeted at finally ensuring a comprehensive medical coverage, it is necessary to elaborate a document which will define the principles of distribution of healthcare services in the Republic of Armenia, provide for clear mechanisms for ensuring the link of narrow specialists with the primary health care unit.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, medical aid and services are provided through the primary health care unit, at the second level — through medical institutions providing multi-profile services and narrow professional mono-profile medical organisations at the tertiary level. In the indicated three-unit system, the link between medical institutions is almost missing, which often impacts the effectiveness, duration and expenses of treatment. Currently, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1911-N of 2 November 2006 "On approving programmes for optimisation of healthcare systems in marzes of the Republic of Armenia" is in effect, which is regularly updated by including changes related to activities and the structure of medical organisations operating in marzes, but the indicated Decision is in no way a guide for distribution of services and does not defined baseline data.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to elaborate a master-plan of the structure of in-patient services of the Republic of Armenia and an integrated model for provision of services. Based on the documents, services for medical aid and service will be located in each region taking as a basis the study of the needs assessment conducted in advance, the statistics of the number, gender, morbidity of the domestic population serviced, existence of necessary specialists, existence of other similar services in the region, bed capacity and occupancy thereof, future perspectives and other principal indicators.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementing the Action will contribute to the introduction of efficient mechanisms aimed at ensuring citizens of the Republic of Armenia with comprehensive healthcare coverage and ensuring quality healthcare services.</p>
26	<p>26.1. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Healthcare "On approving the 2022-2025 Programme for Introducing Centralised Ambulance Service"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from point 7 of part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 2 of the Annex to the Law "On the structure and operation of the Government", point 10 of the Statute of the Ministry of Healthcare approved by Decision of the Prime Minister N 728-L of 11 June 2018, as well as sub-points 2 and 10 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the need for quick response by the ambulance service, management thereof from one unified centre, and organisation of service of calls for emergency and urgent medical aid more operatively and rationally in the whole territory of the Republic.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, emergency medical aid within the scope of state funding in the Republic of Armenia is organised at 7 sub-stations of "Ambulance" CJSC</p>

	<p>of Yerevan Municipality, "Ambulance Station of Gyumri" CJSC of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia, and the Ambulance Service established on the basis of "National Burn Center" CJSC (mainly ensures the service of patients with coronavirus disease) and 44 ambulance services of marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of quick response by the ambulance service conditioned by martial law, emergency situation, as well as a number of factors (probability of occurrence of natural disasters, growth in volumes of migration flows) and management thereof from one unified centre, managing the course of service of calls for emergency and urgent medical aid from the centralised emergency medical aid service, it is envisaged to introduce the Programme for the Centralised Ambulance Service.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementing the Action, it is envisaged to approve a 2022-2025 Programme for Introducing Centralised Ambulance Service whereby a Centralised Ambulance Service will be established through implementing the actions defined.</p>
27.	<p>27.1 Inventory-taking and assessing the facility conditions, equipment and human resources of medical institutions providing PHC services</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 2, 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the level of primary health care in the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Primary health care services need further development, in particular, urban polyclinics continue to work through the system formed in the Soviet years, that is, mainly with non-optimal medical personnel, unsatisfactory facility conditions and old equipment not complying with modern standards.</p> <p>Inventory-taking of PHC institutions will provide an opportunity to have a complete picture of the PHC system and will serve as a basis for making further decisions.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The loan programmes implemented in the primary health care (PHC) unit in the recent year with the support of the World Bank have been mainly directed at improving the infrastructures of community PHC service providers of marzes, as well as creating favourable conditions for introduction of family medicine as a more effective, accessible and appropriate structural model. During 2000-2013, the buildings of 175 outpatient clinics, health centres, PHCCs and family medicine offices were repaired and built with the support of the World Bank. Within the scope of the loan programmes, 1655 family doctors and 1770 family nurses received specialisation during 2000-2012. Around 55% of specialised family doctors and around 65% of specialised nurses were from the marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>Nevertheless, there are medical institutions providing PHC medical services that are in miserable conditions in the city of Yerevan and the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service in the PHC level is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 implementing works for repair/construction and equipment of institutions carrying out PHC medical aid and service, for which it is necessary to have a complete picture of the PHC system through necessary inventory-taking and assessment. In particular, during 2021-2022, it is envisaged to carry out inventory-taking and assessment of the facility conditions, equipment and human resources of medical institutions providing PHC services.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Inventory-taking data will serve as a ground for forming priorities and elaborating further strategic programmes.</p>
28.	<p>28.1. Building a regional hospital in Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia and equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and appliances</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with the up-to-date standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p>

Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.

Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service.

In particular, during 2021-2023, it is envisaged to carry out optimisation of services for medical aid and service and modernisation of medical organisations in Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia comprises 3 cities — Yeghegnadzor, Vayk, Jermuk, as well as 41 rural communities and 52 villages.

"Yeghegnadzor Medical Center" CJSC with a 45 bed capacity operates in Yeghegnadzor region, which services around 32.2 thousand domestic population of Yeghegnadzor region. The Medical Center is in a poor condition and needs capital renovation, and the equipment, furniture and appliances are physically worn out, the majority is produced back in the years of the Soviet Union.

"Vayk Medical Association" CJSC with a 35 bed capacity operates in Vayk region, which services the population of Vayk and Jermuk regions — around 17.3 thousand people. Services are located in the main (built in 1962-70), maternity (built in 194) and infection blocks. Partial repair works have been carried out at the expense of the State Budget, but the blocks need renovation and equipping with medical equipment.

Based on the above-indicated, as well as the low indicators of bed load of the medical institutions, it was not deemed to be appropriate to modernise 2 medical institutions of the Marz.

Hence, it was recommended to merge the in-patient services of the medical institutions of Yeghegnadzor and Vayk (with a capacity of 80 beds in total) by building a new marz model hospital in Yeghegnadzor city of Vayots Dzor (with a capacity of 36 in-patient beds), which will provide all in-patient services of the second level, by maintaining polyclinic services in Vayk and Yeghegnadzor. The newly-built hospital will be equipped with modern medical equipment, furniture and appliances.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of Vayots Dzor Marz will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper

	medical services of the second level on the spot, close to their settlement.
	<p>28.2. Building a new building of "Martuni Medical Center" of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and appliances</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with the up-to-date standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service. In particular, it is envisaged to modernise "Martuni Medical Center" of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia by</p>

	<p>constructing a new building for it and equipping it with up-to-date medical equipment and furniture.</p> <p>"Martuni Medical Center" of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 95 bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 88.6 thousand population of Martuni, 11.5 thousand whereof is urban and 77.1 thousand is rural.</p> <p>The services of "Martuni" MC are located in a three-floor panel construction built in 1987, which has not undergone capital repair since being put into operation, is currently in a bad condition, needs repair and equipping with equipment and furniture, as well as appliances. Based on the above-indicated, the dimensions of the construction, as well as the low indicators of bed load of the Center, the renovation of the current block of "Martuni Medical Center" is not effective from the economic perspective.</p> <p>Hence, it is appropriate to build a new model block of the Medical Center providing in-patient and polyclinic services in the territory of "Martuni Medical Centre". The newly-built Center will be equipped with modern medical equipment, furniture and appliances.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of Martuni region will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.3. Constructing "Sisian Medical Center" of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating</p>

	<p>in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service. In particular, during 2021-2024, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Sisian Medical Center" operating in Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Sisian Medical Center" of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 50 bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 29.7 thousand population of Sisian, 15.1 thousand whereof is urban and 14.6 thousand is rural.</p> <p>The services of "Sisian Medical Center" are located in hospital and polyclinic blocks built in 1967. Partial repairs have been carried out, but the Center currently needs renovation and equipping with modern medical equipment.</p> <p>Based on the above-indicated, the dimensions of the construction, the indicators of bed load of the Center, as well as the existence of medical institutions providing second level service in the Marz, it is recommended to reduce the bed capacity of the Center and carry out reconstruction works.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of Sisian region will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.4. Reconstructing the blocks of the "National Centre for Mental Health Care" CJSC of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping them with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The circumstance of reform of services for mental health care and modernisation of relevant medical organisations in Armenia is in the centre of attention of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Reforming the psychiatric service is of priority and urgent taking into account especially the growth of the number of patients with mental problems, the great share of mental illnesses in the structure of diseases, as well as the existence of extreme unsatisfactory infrastructures of institutions providing psychiatric service. The facility conditions of the above-indicated institutions are in a miserable condition and subject to modernisation for the purpose of providing patients in need of psychiatric service with medical services complying with the modern standards and increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The infrastructures of almost all institutions providing psychiatric service in the Republic of Armenia are worn out, the furniture is still of production in the Soviet years, and necessary medical equipment are missing or are in an inoperable condition. None of the existing psychiatric hospitals is specialised in psychiatric problems of children and adolescents.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the directions of increasing the quality of psychiatric assistance and service provided in the Republic of Armenia is the optimisation of the structure of the psychiatric service and modernisation of medical institutions (including services for mental health of children) — construction, renovation and equipping with medical equipment, furniture and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>The services of "National Centre for Mental Health Care" CJSC under the subordination of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "NCMHC") with a 350 bed capacity are located in five two-floor and one three-floor administrative blocks linked to each other,, as well as in the block of the isolator located separately, built in 1979. The number of beneficiaries comprises around 3780 people in total. The Centre is currently in an extremely unsatisfactory condition, needs repair and equipping with equipment and furniture, as well as appliances.</p> <p>Hence, from the perspective of improvement and expansion of mental health care services provided by the NCMHC, establishment of children's in-patient mental services, repair of the blocks of the NCMHC, construction works for building a new block and attached constructions are envisaged.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernising the medical institution, proper psychiatric services will be provided to the vulnerable group of the population of Armenia — patients with a mental problem.</p>
	<p>28.5. Reconstructing the blocks of the "National Center for Communicable diseases"</p> <p>CJSC of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping them with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p>

The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

Continuous improvement of effectiveness and quality of in-patient services in the Republic of Armenia is carried out by providing support to processes for optimisation of hospitals, improvement of infrastructures of hospitals and treatment opportunities. Taking into account the Republican significance of the "National Center for Communicable diseases", the beneficiary whereof are around 2 959.7 thousand residents of Armenia, modernisation of its blocks has been envisaged.

The blocks of the "National Center for Communicable diseases" are in miserable conditions and subject to modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with infection services complying with modern standards, increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Improvement of effectiveness of preventing and controlling communicable diseases, as well as modernisation and enhancement of infrastructures of the infection service in the Republic of Armenia have an ongoing nature. In particular, the "National Center for Disease Control and Prevention", as well as the five marz branches are modernised, "Gyumri Infectious Hospital" is repaired, a modular triage centre has been built in the territory of the "National Center for Communicable diseases" within the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, there are still institutions providing infection services both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided, especially in conditions of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided to patients with communicable diseases in the Republic of Armenia is the optimisation of the structure of the psychiatric service and modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical equipment, furniture and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue the works for raising the effectiveness of prevention and control of communicable diseases and modernisation of medical organisations providing infection services through improving the facility conditions of the institutions.

The "National Center for Communicable diseases" with a 260 bed capacity is a medical institution of Republican significance, which provides infection services to the entire population of the Republic of Armenia.

The "National Center for Communicable diseases" is comprised of seven blocks, of which blocks A and B were built in 1960s and 1986, respectively, and the remaining five auxiliary constructions — in 1930s. The in-patient services in effect are located in blocks A and B. Partial repairs have been carried out at own expenses of the Center, but the blocks are currently in a bad condition and need renovation and equipping with equipment, furniture and appliances.

	<p>Taking into account the current physical condition of the "National Center for Communicable diseases", reconstruction of the operating block, construction of a new attached structure and block are envisaged.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernising the "National Center for Communicable diseases", it will be possible to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges brought, by providing the population of the Republic of Armenia with the opportunity to use properly provided infection services.</p>
	<p>28.6. Building a new block for the infection service of "Vanadzor Medical Center" of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia and equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and appliances</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system and, in particular, infection services in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia, taking into account the challenges brought by the coronavirus pandemic of global pandemic significance. Territories envisaged for provision of infection services of certain marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with proper infection services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Actions for reforming infection services and modernising the relevant infrastructure derive immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia, including all services provided, has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>At the same time, improvement of effectiveness of preventing and controlling communicable diseases, as well as modernisation and enhancement of infrastructures of the infection service in the Republic of Armenia are more than of priority in modern times. A number of works have already been carried out in the indicated direction, in particular, the "National Center for Disease Control and Prevention", as well as the five marz branches are modernised, "Gyumri Infectious Hospital" is repaired, a modular triage centre has been built in the territory of the "National Center for Communicable diseases" within the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>At the same time, there are still institutions providing infection services both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the</p>

	<p>international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided, especially in conditions of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service, also including territories allocated for infection services.</p> <p>"Vanadzor Infectious Hospital" of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 15 bed capacity, provides infection services to the 213.3 thousand population of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia, of which 126.1 thousand are urban, 87.2 thousand are rural. The Infectious Hospital is located in a two-floor building built in 1976.</p> <p>In 2004, the Hospital was renovated at the expense of the State Budget, currently needs renovation and equipping with modern equipment.</p> <p>For the purpose of modernising and enhancing the infection service in Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia, it is envisaged to provide the service within "Vanadzor Medical Center", concurrently building a new block in the territory of the newly-built "Vanadzor Medical Center" for the proper and quality organisation of the infection service. Equipping the service with modern equipment, furniture and medical appliances is envisaged as well.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Modernisation of the infection service in Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to increasing the quality of relevant services for medical aid and service provided in the region, by providing the domestic population with the opportunity to receive necessary medical service on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.7. Reconstructing the branch of the "National Center for Disease Control and Prevention" of Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia and equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and appliances</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>In order to resist, respond quickly to communicable diseases and provide proper medical aid to patients, it is necessary to have a prepared healthcare system, which is, infrastructures necessary for preventing the spread of the infection, medical equipment necessary for managing and effectively treating the disease, medical personnel having undergone relevant trainings in all units, as well as facilities of medical institutions exercising preventive, diagnostic and/or therapeutic functions that are constructed/reconstructed in observance of the sanitary norms envisaged for</p>

	<p>communicable diseases.</p> <p>Actions aimed at enhancing and modernising the anti-epidemic system both in Yerevan and the marzes of the Republic of Armenia derive immediately from the policy adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Hence, improving the facility conditions of healthcare institutions engaged in managing and controlling the epidemiological situations and equipping them with necessary equipment are planned.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Several actions have been taken in the indicated direction in the recent years, in particular, five of the ten marz branches of the NCDPC (Shirak, Lori, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Tavush) have already been reconstructed/constructed and equipped with laboratory equipment.</p> <p>Nevertheless, some of them continue operating in miserable facility conditions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>During 2022-2024, it is envisaged to modernise Armavir Marz Branch of the NCDPC. Modernising the indicated branch — reconstruction of the existing building and equipping with necessary equipment and furniture, will provide an opportunity to ensure laboratory works for control and prevention of diseases in Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia as well. It should be noted that Armavir Marz is one of the most densely populated marzes in Armenia and is deemed to be a border zone, due to which much importance is attached to building laboratory capacities in this region.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will contribute to the process for strategic preparation and counteraction of outbreak of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, enhancement of capacities of the healthcare system, in particular, detection and diagnosis of coronavirus.</p>
	<p>28.8. Reconstructing the branch of the "National Center for Disease Control and Prevention" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia and equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>In order to resist, respond quickly to communicable diseases and provide proper medical aid to patients, it is necessary to have a prepared healthcare system, which is, infrastructures necessary for preventing the spread of the infection, medical equipment necessary for managing and effectively treating the disease, medical personnel having undergone relevant trainings in all units, as well as facilities of medical institutions exercising preventive, diagnostic and/or therapeutic functions that are constructed/reconstructed in observance of the sanitary norms envisaged for communicable diseases.</p>

	<p>Actions aimed at enhancing and modernising the anti-epidemic system both in Yerevan and the marzes of the Republic of Armenia derive immediately from the policy adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Hence, improving the facility conditions of healthcare institutions engaged in managing and controlling the epidemiological situations and equipping them with necessary equipment are planned.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Several actions have been taken in the indicated direction in the recent years, in particular, five of the ten marz branches of the NCDCP (Shirak, Lori, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Tavush) have already been reconstructed/constructed and equipped with laboratory equipment.</p> <p>Nevertheless, some of them continue operating in miserable facility conditions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>During 2022-2024, it is envisaged to modernise Ararat Marz Branch of the NCDCP. Modernising the indicated branch — reconstruction of the existing building and equipping with necessary equipment and furniture, will ensure — together with the already modernised Syunik Marz Branch in the south of Armenia, laboratory works for control and prevention of diseases in Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia as well. At the same time, Ararat Marz is a border marz (currently Vayots Dzor as well) and building laboratory capacities in this region is a strong need.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will contribute to the process for strategic preparation and counteraction of outbreak of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, enhancement of capacities of the healthcare system, in particular, detection and diagnosis of coronavirus.</p>
	<p>28.9 Reconstructing "Charentsavan Medical Center" of Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day.</p> <p>In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>In 2021-2026, it is envisaged to continue performing works for repair/construction and equipping of institutions carrying out marz medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2021-2022, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Charentsavan Medical Center" operating in Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Charentsavan Medical Center" of Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 35 bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 20.5 thousand population of Charentsavan.</p> <p>The services of "Charentsavan Medical Center" are located in hospital and polyclinic blocks built in 1971.</p> <p>Based on the above-indicated, the number of the populations serviced, it is more appropriate to locate all in-patient and outpatient services only in the part of the hospital block, by reducing the territory subject to repair and expenses. The Center also needs equipping with equipment and furniture.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of the city of Charentsavan will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	28.10 Reconstructing "Talin Medical Center" of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.

Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.

Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.

Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service.

In particular, during 2021-2024, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Talin Medical Center" operating in Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

"Talin Medical Center" of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 40 bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a

	<p>wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 32.2 thousand population of Talin, 4.3 thousand whereof is urban and 27.9 — rural. The services of "Talin Medical Center" are located in one three-floor blocks built in 1969. The Center was partially repaired in 2003 and 2011.</p> <p>Taking into account the current physical condition of the Center, the number of the population of the region, low employment indicators, it is appropriate to bring the number of already reduced beds to 30(5), as well as reconstructing the block of the medical centre — a territory of around 3526.6 sq. m., is recommended.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of the city of Talin will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28. 11 Reconstructing "Tsaghkahovit Health Center" of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of</p>

	<p>medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>In 2021-2026, it is envisaged to continue performing works for repair/construction and equipping of institutions carrying out marz medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2021-2024, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Tsaghkahovit Health Center" operating in Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Tsaghkahovit Health Center" of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia is a medical institution with a 7 bed capacity, which provides medical services to around 13.5 thousand rural population of Aragats region. The services of "Tsaghkahovit Health Center" are located in the two-floor block built in 1973. No repair works have been carried out since the moment of operation, the building is in a bad condition, and needs renovation and equipping with equipment.</p> <p>Hence, in conditions of existing bed occupancy, it is appropriate the re-organise "Tsaghkahovit Health Center", reduce the bed capacity again down to 5 beds and build a new block, as well as equip the Center with necessary medical equipment, furniture and appliances.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Tsaghkahovit community will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28. 12 Constructing "Echmiadzin Medical Centre" of Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service. In particular, during 2022-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Etchmiadzin Medical Centre" operating in Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Etchmiadzin Medical Centre " of Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia is a medical institution with a 100 bed capacity, which provides in-patient services to the 133.2 thousand population of Etchmiadzin region, 46.2 thousand whereof is urban and 87.0 thousand is rural.</p> <p>The services of "Etchmiadzin Medical Centre" are located in 3 blocks 2 of which are stone constructions linked to each other — the four-floor surgical block built in 1989 and the three-floor therapeutic hospital block built in 1971. Partial repairs of the Centre have been regularly carried out, but the blocks are currently in a bad condition and need renovation.</p> <p>Hence, based on the bed occupancy of the Medical Centre, as well as taking into account the physical condition of the blocks of "Vagharshapat Hospital", it is appropriate to optimise the bed capacity up to 85 (10) and centralise all in-patient services of the Medical Centre in one block (therapeutic), by carrying out the reconstruction of the latter and construction of the attached structure.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of the city of Etchmiadzin will be provided with the opportunity to receive</p>
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	proper medical services on the spot, close to their residence.
	<p>28.13. Constructing "Artik Medical Center" of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2024-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service.</p>

	<p>In particular, during 2022-2025, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Artik Medical Center" operating in Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Artik Medical Center" of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia is a medical institution with a 25 bed capacity, which provides services to the 47.7 thousand population of Artik region, 17.8 thousand whereof is urban and 29.9 thousand is rural. The in-patient services of the Center are located in the two-floor block built in 1950-60. Partial repairs have been carried out, but the block of the Center is currently in a bad condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>In conditions of the existing indicators of bed occupancy, as well as the existence of newly-built "Gyumri Medical Center" providing third level service, it is appropriate to carry out optimisation of the medical organisations operating in the Marz.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of Artik region will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services of the second level on the spot, close to their settlement.</p>
	<p>28.14. Constructing "Masis Medical Center" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and</p>

	<p>constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>During 2021-2026, it is envisaged to continue the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service. In particular, during 2022-2025, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Masis Medical Center" operating in Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Masis Medical Center" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 110 bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 79.0 thousand population of Masis region, 20.6 thousand whereof is urban and 58.4 thousand is rural.</p> <p>The services of "Masis Medical Center" are located in three blocks built in 1975. Partial repairs have been carried out at own expenses of the Center, but the blocks are currently in a bad condition, need renovation and equipping with equipment and furniture, as well as appliances.</p> <p>Hence, taking into account the physical condition of the block, existing indicators of bed occupancy, it was deemed to be appropriate and cost-effective to optimise the bed capacity again down to 55 beds, locate all in-patient and outpatient services in one place, by building a new model block for "Masis Medical Center".</p> <p>Equipping the medical institution with modern medical equipment, furniture and appliances is further envisaged as well.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of Masis region will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services of the second level on the spot, close to their settlement.</p>
	<p>28.15. Constructing "Ashtarak Medical Center" of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of</p>

Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.

Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Programmes for modernisation of marz healthcare organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid provided to the population.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.

Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.

Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions carrying out medical aid and service. In particular, during 2022-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Ashtarak Medical Center" operating in Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

"Ashtarak Medical Center" of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 45 bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 58.3 thousand population of Ashtarak region, 16.8 thousand whereof is urban and 41.5 thousand is rural. Currently, the services of the Center are located in block No 1 and main polyclinic block built in 1974. Partial repairs have been carried out. But the Centre is currently in an unsatisfactory condition, needs repair and equipping with equipment and furniture, as well as appliances.

	<p>Taking into account the current physical condition of the Center, low indicators of bed occupancy, it is recommended to bring the number of already reduced beds down to 32, carry out reconstruction of the three-floor hospital block of "Ashtarak Medical Center" and construction of a polyclinic block. Equipping the Center with modern medical equipment, furniture and appliances is further envisaged as well.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of the city of Ashtarak will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.16. Constructing "Nairi Medical Center" in Yeghvard community of Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 175 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2022-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Nairi Medical Center" operating in Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Nairi Medical Center" of Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia is a multi-profile medical institution with a 40-bed capacity, which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 57.2 thousand population of Nairi region, 21.2 thousand whereof is urban and 36.0 thousand is rural.</p> <p>The services of "Nairi Medical Center" are located in the main block, blocks of polyclinic and obstetrics and gynaecology built in 1984. The Medical Center has not been repaired since the moment of operation, it is in a bad condition, needs renovation and equipping with equipment and furniture, as well as appliances.</p> <p>In condition of the existing indicators of bed load, as well as based on the sizes of the building, the re-construction of the existing blocks of "Nairi Medical Center" is not economically effective. Therefore, it was deemed to be expedient to locate all the hospital and out-patient services in a model block being newly built, by applying/localising the model project elaborated through credit means of the World Bank for Vayots Dzor Marz Hospital being newly built. It is also envisaged to equip the Center with modern medical equipment, furniture and appliances.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Nairi region will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services of the second level on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.17. Constructing a new building of "Tashir Medical Center" of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 175 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Tashir Medical Center" operating in Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Tashir Medical Center" of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 40-bed capacity, is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 17.7 thousand population of Tashir region, 7.2 thousand whereof is urban and 10.5 thousand is rural. The services of "Tashir Medical Center" are located in the two-storey stone construction built in 1976. Polyclinic services for adults and children are located in other different parts of the city — in blocks built in 1973 and 1951. The blocks of the Center are currently in a bad condition and need renovation.</p> <p>Therefore, in conditions of the existing bed occupancy, it is expedient to optimise the bed capacity up to 25(5) beds by locating all the hospital and out-patient services in one block. Equipping "Tashir Medical Center" with modern equipment, furniture and medical appliances is further envisaged, as well.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Tashir region will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services of the second level on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	28.18. Capital repairs of the building of "Vedi Medical Center" maternity hospital of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with

medical furniture, equipment and accessories

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.

Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.

16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.

Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Vedi Medical Center" operating in Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

"Vedi Medical Center" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia, with a 90-bed capacity (40 in-patient and 50 maternity hospital) is a multi-profile medical institution which provides a wide spectre of in-patient and polyclinic services to the 11.8 thousand population of the city of Vedi.

	<p>The services of "Vedi Medical Center" are located in the main block built in 1967, the polyclinic block built in the 1950s, as well as in the maternity block built in 1978.</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned, the number of the populations serviced, it is more expedient to locate all in-patient, maternity hospital and polyclinic services in one hospital block, constructing a new hospital block. The Center also needs equipping with equipment and furniture.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of the city of Vedi will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.19. Constructing the building of "Armavir Medical Center" Polyclinic of Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Armavir Medical Center" Polyclinic operating in Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Armavir Medical Center" Polyclinic serves population composed of around 7289 people. The block of the polyclinic is a structure built in 1976, composed of 4 floors. Each floor comprises 506 square meters, totally — 2027,2 square meters. It was last renovated during the Soviet period.</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned, the number of the population serviced, it is recommended to construct the building.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of the city of Armavir will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.20. Constructing the building of "Vardenis Medical Center" of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating</p>

	<p>in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture. Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Vardenis Medical Center" operating in Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The in-patient section of "Vardenis Medical Center" of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia operates with a 30-bed capacity and provides services to the 37.4 thousand population of Vardenis region. The hospital services of Vardenis are located in the block built in 1980 (one section of the same building is provided to the Garrison Hospital of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia).</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned, the number of the population serviced, "Vardenis Medical Center" needs modernisation — improvement of facility conditions and re-arming.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of the city of Vardenis will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.21. Constructing the building of "Jermuk Health Center" of Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p>

	<p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2024-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Jermuk Health Center" operating in Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Jermuk Health Center" of Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia is an institution with a 5-bed capacity which provides in-patient and polyclinic services to the 4.1 thousand population of the city of Jermuk.</p> <p>Since 2006, the services of "Jermuk Health Center" have been located in the block designated for kindergarten, built in 1982.</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned, also taking into account the number of tourists visiting Jermuk, the number of the population serviced, it is more expedient to construct a new block (based on the existing model project), by locating the in-patient and out-patient services in one block. The Center also needs equipping with equipment and furniture.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of the city of Jermuk will be provided with the opportunity to receive proper</p>
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	complete medical services on the spot, close to their residence.
	<p>28.22 Reconstructing “Nor Hachn Polyclinic” of Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation .</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Nor Hachn Polyclinic" operating in Kotayk</p>

	<p>Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In total, 23 buildings of primary health care institution have been repaired or built in Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia, in the composition whereof "Nor Hachn Polyclinic" is not included.</p> <p>"Nor Hachn Polyclinic" CJSC is located in a separate building, services around 12922 population, occupies 896.1 sq. m territory (2 storeys). The Polyclinic operates in a building with load-bearing stone walls which is in a bad condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>Based on the above-mentioned, it is expedient to reconstruct the block of the Polyclinic.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the modernisation of the medical institution, the population of the Nor Hachn community will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.23. Reconstructing the building of “Polyclinic No 2 named after N. A. Melikyan” of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p>

	<p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of “Gyumri Polyclinic No 2 named after N. A. Melikyan” of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In total, 6 community medical institutions (construction — 4, and renovation — 2) and 1 polyclinic — "Gyumri Family Medical Center", have been renovated and built in Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>“Gyumri Polyclinic No 2 named after N.A. Melikyan” serves population composed of 26607 people, occupies 2207,91 square meters territory. It is a panel block building with stone-made walls, built in 1936, it is in poor condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Gyumri will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.24. Constructing "Vanadzor Polyclinic No 1" of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of facility conditions of "Vanadzor Polyclinic No 1" of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>In total, 11 community medical institutions (construction — 8, renovation —4) and one Family Doctors' Office have been renovated and built in Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Vanadzor Polyclinic No 1" is located in a separate building, services 27169 population, occupies 1825.2 sq. m territory (3 storeys). It is a building with load-bearing stone walls built in 1959, it is in a bad condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Vanadzor will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.25. Constructing the polyclinic block of "Kapan Medical Center" of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of</p>

Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.

Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.

16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.

Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service.

In particular, during 2024-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Kapan Polyclinic" operating in Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

In total, 19 medical institutions of primary health care unit (construction — 14, renovation — 5) have been renovated and built in Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

Currently, the polyclinic operating in the composition of "Kapan Medical Center" services 37614 population, occupies 244.3 sq. m territory (4 storeys), was built in 1971, it is a building with load-bearing stone walls, it is in a bad condition and needs renovation.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Kapan will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.26. Constructing the polyclinic block of "Goris Medical Center" of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical</p>

	<p>aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2024-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Goris Polyclinic" of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In total, 19 medical institutions of primary health care unit (construction — 14, renovation —5) have been renovated and built in Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Currently, "Goris Polyclinic" operates in the composition of "Goris Medical Center" CJSC, services 21477 population, occupies 1830.9 sq. m territory (3 storeys). It is a building with load-bearing stone walls built in 1968, it is in a bad condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Goris will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.27. Reconstructing the polyclinic block of "Artashat Medical Center" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to</p>

	<p>the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Artashat Polyclinic" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In total, 24 community medical institutions (construction — 13, renovation — 11) have been renovated and built in Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Currently, "Artashat Polyclinic" operates in the composition of "Artashat Medical Center" CJSC, serves around 28519 population, occupies 1499.8 sq. m territory (3 storeys). It is a building with load-bearing stone walls, it is in a bad condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Artashat will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.28. Constructing the polyclinic block of "Ararat Medical Center" of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of the Polyclinic of the city of Ararat of Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In total, 24 community medical institutions (construction — 13, renovation — 11) have been renovated and built in Ararat Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Ararat Polyclinic" operates in the composition of "Ararat Hospital Medical Center" CJSC, serves around 23683 population, occupies 821.05 sq. m territory (2 storeys). It is a building with load-bearing stone walls built, it is in a bad condition and needs renovation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Ararat will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.29 Constructing "Vayk Polyclinic" of Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of</p>

Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.

Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation.

Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.

16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.

Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.

It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of "Vayk Polyclinic" of Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia.

In total, 6 community medical institutions have been built in Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia. Currently, "Vayk Polyclinic" operates in the composition of "Vayk Medical Association" CJSC, serves 9715 population, occupies 2430 sq. m territory (1 storey). It is a panel building built in 1962, it is in a bad condition and needs renovation.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of modernisation of the medical institution, the population of Vayk will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper

	primary healthcare and services, close to their residence.
	<p>28.30 Constructing buildings of 50 medical organisations providing primary healthcare services, operating in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of marz medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia stems directly from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of marz medical organisations will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>16 marz medical centres and buildings of around 171 primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and built up to the day. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided in marzes is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for repair/construction and equipment of marz institutions delivering medical aid and service. In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to build 20 ambulatories/buildings of centres for primary health care in Marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The mentioned Action will provide an opportunity to make the primary health care services provided in marzes of the Republic of Armenia more accessible and with higher quality for the rural population.</p>
	<p>28.31 Constructing the building of a new medical centre providing multi-profile burns, dermatological and traumatological services in Yerevan</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The matter of developing the healthcare system is still a relevant issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.</p> <p>Programmes for modernisation of medical organisations of the Republic of Armenia will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and service provided to the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia is constantly being modernised by including new medical organisations which need improvement/creation of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.</p> <p>There are still institutions delivering medical aid and service that are in miserable conditions in Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and service provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and service provided is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for optimisation, as well as re-construction/construction and equipment of institutions delivering medical aid and service.</p> <p>In particular, during 2022-2026, it is envisaged to create a new medical centre on the basis of "National Center for Dermatology", "National Burn Center" and "Scientific Center of Traumatology and Orthopaedy" operating currently, by ensuring a proper facility condition for the newly-created multi-profile medical centre.</p> <p>"National Center for Dermatology" is a medical institution with an 86-bed capacity, which provides in-patient and polyclinic services to around 2959.7 thousand population of the Republic of Armenia. The services of the Medical Center are located in an old and poor block built in 1969.</p>

"National Burn Center" is an institution with a 60-bed capacity, which provides in-patient and polyclinic services to around 2959.7 thousand population of the Republic of Armenia.

The services of the Medical Center are located in the block built in 1958. "Scientific Center of Traumatology and Orthopedics" is an institution with a 150-bed capacity, which provides in-patient and polyclinic services to around 2959.7 thousand population of the Republic of Armenia. The services of the Medical Center are located in the block built in 1950. Based on the unfavourable conditions, depreciation of the buildings occupied by the mentioned medical organisations, the nature, importance of services provided and the number of the population using the services (the whole population of the Republic of Armenia), it is recommended to construct a new building of a new medical centre being created based on the latter, providing burns, dermatological and traumatological services to the population of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the implementation of the Action, the newly-created tertiary level multi-functional centre will provide medical aid and services to the whole population of the Republic of Armenia in the new block built according to the modern standards.

28.32 Constructing "Gavar Medical Centre" Polyclinic of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-arming it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The matter of developing the healthcare system is still a popular issue in the Republic of Armenia. Buildings of a number of medical institutions are still in miserable conditions and need modernisation for the purpose of providing the population with medical services complying with modern standards on the spot.

Developing the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia derives immediately from the Programme for Proportionate Development of Territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Programmes for modernisation of medical organisations of the Republic of Armenia will inevitably contribute to increasing the quality and level of accessibility of medical aid and support provided to the population.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Since 2009, the marz healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia has been being modernised by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which need improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture.

Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 171 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to now. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary

	<p>furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and support that are in miserable conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and support provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and support provided is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for optimisation, as well as re-construction/construction and equipment of institutions delivering medical aid and support.</p> <p>In particular, during 2023-2026, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of “Gavar Medical Centre” Polyclinic of Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>"Gavar Medical Centre" Polyclinic services population with around 23000 members, 18027 out of which are above 18 and 48956 are below the age of 18. It occupies a territory of about 1500 square meters (3 floors). The building of the polyclinic was put in operation in 1982 and has undergone no renovation up to now. Based on foregoing, it is appropriate to construct the block of the polyclinic.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of the Medical Center, the population of Gavar Community will be provided with the opportunity to receive quality and proper primary health care and services, close to their residence.</p>
	<p>28.33 Constructing Spitak Medical Centre of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia and re-equipping it with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for implementation of the Action derives from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZHvO-002-N of 26 August 2021. The issue of advancing the healthcare system in marzes of the Republic of Armenia is pertinent within the country. Several medical institutions in marzes are still in a critical condition and require modernisation to provide medical services to population in place, meeting contemporary standards. Advancing of the healthcare system of the Republic of Armenia directly stems from the Programme of proportional development of the territories of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Programmes aimed at modernisation of medical organisations of marzes will inevitably contribute to enhancing the level of medical aid provided to population, as well as service quality and accessibility.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the healthcare system of marzes of the Republic of Armenia is being modernized, by including new medical organisations operating in marzes, which require improvement of facility conditions, equipping with new equipment and furniture. Buildings of 16 marz medical centres and around 175 marz primary health care institutions of the Republic of Armenia have been renovated and constructed up to now. In the majority of cases, the medical institutions have also been equipped with modern medical equipment and necessary furniture.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are still medical institutions carrying out medical aid and support that are in critical conditions in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, both the facility condition and technical equipment whereof do not meet the international norms, which also reflects on the quality of medical aid and support provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the means for increasing the quality of medical aid and support provided is modernisation of medical institutions — construction, renovation and equipping with medical furniture, equipment and appliances complying with modern standards.</p> <p>It is envisaged to continue in 2021-2026 the implementation of works for re-construction/construction and equipment of institutions delivering medical aid and support.</p> <p>In particular, it is envisaged to carry out improvement of the facility conditions of “Spitak Medical Centre” of Lori Marz of the Republic of Armenia, through construction of a new building.</p> <p>The services of Spitak Medical Center are located in the block spanning an area of 5071 square meters, built with funding from the Norwegian Government in 1988, following the devastating earthquake of Spitak. The polyclinic services are located in the polyclinic block spanning an area of 1580 square meters. The building was built with support of Finnish Government and was subsequently renovated at the expense of own funds. The blocks are located in various parts of Spitak town. In 2013, the hospital block was reconstructed under the programme for proportional development of marzes. Spitak Medical Centre provides services to 35,5 thousand population of Spitak region, comprising 12,7 thousand urban residents, and 22,8 thousand rural residents. Currently, it is expedient to conduct modernisation, taking into account the physical state of facility conditions of the Medical Centre, number of supported population.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation of medical institution, Spitak population will have the opportunity to access proper comprehensive medical services close to their place of residence.</p>
	<p>28.34 Constructing the forensic medical centres of Gegharkunik, Syunik and Tavush marzes of the Republic of Armenia and equipping them with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the of the Action</p>

	<p>Necessity for implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZHvO-002-N of 26 August 2021. The issue of advancing the forensic medical centres in the Republic of Armenia is in the focus of attention of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The issue is urgent given the existence of buildings of institutions providing forensic medical services in the Republic of Armenia in an extremely insufficient condition. Buildings of the above-mentioned institutions are in poor condition and are subject to modernisation.</p> <p>Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, issues arise in the effective conduction of forensic medical expert examinations due to regional accessibility challenges and the quality of services provided. In particular, the poor condition of forensic medical service buildings, or the complete absence of such facilities (as in the Meghri community), results in the inability to timely and properly complete expert examination requests submitted by law enforcement agencies. This, in turn, leads to breach of time limits within the scope of the criminal trial and impacts the effectiveness of procedural processes. The issue is more acute for border regions and those located far from Yerevan. At the same time, the forensic medical centres, in addition to forensic medical services, anatomical pathology services are also provided in relevant communities.</p> <p>The infrastructure of forensic medical institutions is outdated, and the equipment is still of Soviet production. Solutions recommended for the existing issues.</p> <p>To give comprehensive solutions to the proposed issues, it is recommended to modernise the forensic medical services in Sevan, Berd, Kapan and Meghri communities of Gegharkunik, Syunik and Tavush marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Constructing forensic medical centres complying with modern standards in Sevan, Berd, Kapan and Meghri communities of Gegharkunik, Syunik and Tavush marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>28.35 Constructing the new building of “Syunik Regional Neuropsychiatric Dispensary” of Syunik region of the Republic of Armenia and its re-arming with medical furniture, equipment and accessories</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for implementation of the Action stems from sub-points 14-17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZHvO-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The issue of enhancing the mental health protection services and modernising the relevant medical institutions in the Republic of Armenia is in the focus of attention of the Government of the Republic of Armenia Reforming the psychiatric service is a priority and urgent issue, especially given the increasing number of patients with mental health issues, the large share of mental disorders in the overall disease structure, and the extremely insufficient infrastructure of institutions providing psychiatric services in Armenia. The building conditions of the aforementioned institutions are poor and require modernisation to provide psychiatric patients with services that meet modern standards, improve both the quality of care and</p>

	<p>accessibility.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Syunik's Regional Neuropsychiatric Dispensary (located at 48 Baghaberd St., Kapan City, Syunik Marz, Republic of Armenia) serves individuals with mental health issues in the region and, more recently, also provides care to those displaced from Artsakh. Currently, 2,700 individuals are registered in the marz, and the hospital consistently accommodates 75-78 patients. However, the building of the Neuropsychiatric Dispensary is in a poor condition.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>One of the strategies for improving the quality of psychiatric care and services provided in the Republic of Armenia is the optimisation of the psychiatric service structure and the modernisation of medical institutions. It is recommended to construct a new building for the Neuropsychiatric Dispensary with basement and shelter to comprehensively address the issue.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Establishing an appropriate neuropsychiatric dispensary in Syunik marz of the Republic of Armenia that meets modern standards.</p>
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	Ministry of Justice
NN	RATIONALE
1.	<p>1. REVIEWING THE 2019-2023 STRATEGY FOR JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Reviewing the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms is aimed at bringing it into compliance with the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government and the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The 2021-2026 Programme of the Government was submitted by the Government formed as a result of the early parliamentary elections held on 20 June 2021, Section 5 whereof titled "Law and justice" reflects the vision of the Government on institutional democracy, human rights protection, judicial and legal and police reforms, fight against corruption, reforms of the penitentiary and probation sector. Conditioned by the mentioned circumstance, some directions of the 2019-2023 Strategy of Judicial and Legal Reforms of Armenia approved by Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1444-L of 10 October 2019 and the time limits for implementation thereof do not comply with the 2021-2026 Programme of the</p>

	<p>Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as this Action Plan.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The 2021-2026 Programme of the Government attaches special attention to the right of suffrage and institutional democracy. Having regard to the mentioned provision of the Programme, there is a necessity to make amendments to the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms by expanding the strategic objectives dedicated to the reform of the electoral legal relations.</p> <p>Undertaking the obligation of taking continuous steps aimed at the protection of human rights, the implementation of reforms in the sector of human rights protection has been envisaged by the Government of the Republic of Armenia as a programme provision. Taking into account the directions envisaged by the Programme of the Government, it is necessary to privatise the directions for implementing the reforms envisaged by the Programme of the Government in the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms. At the same time, the time limits for the implementation of the Strategy are also subjected to be brought into compliance with the time limits envisaged by the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to carry out review of the Strategy for Judicial and Legal Reforms and bring it into compliance with the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government and the Action Plan. As a result thereof, the vision of the Government on the reforms of the justice sector will be reflected more completely, and the Strategy will become more targeted and measurable.</p>
2.	<p>2. ELABORATING THE DRAFTS OF THE CONCEPT PAPER ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS AND AMENDMENTS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of constitutional reforms aims at guaranteeing the constitutional stability, proper activity of constitutional and other bodies and the ability to exercise the basic rights of persons. The Action stems from point 5.1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Although the Constitution adopted with the amendments of 2015 has certain advantages compared to the previous Constitution adopted with the amendments of 2005, in particular, the definition of basic human rights and freedoms have significantly improved, nevertheless, there are a number of challenging regulations in the Constitution, which, being conditioned by subjective or objective factors, undermine the principle of the rule of law.</p> <p>Accordingly, launching extensive socio-political discussions regarding the new Constitution or aimed at implementing constitutional reforms has been considered to be a priority in the Programme of the Government.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to launch discussions with socio-political circles to review the format of the process of implementing constitutional reforms, agenda and</p>

	<p>expediency of the amendments in order to clarify the Concept Paper on Constitutional Reforms and the directions of elaboration of the Draft.</p> <p>Having regard to the mentioned priority, it is necessary to specify the format for organising the process of constitutional reforms and form the determined model. In particular, the issue of the model of the commission for the purpose of implementing constitutional reforms is subject to discussion, by having regard to the necessity of reaching an agreement on the format effective to the extent possible.</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the inclusivity of constitutional reforms, it is necessary to organise discussions with wide circles of the public to determine the expediency and agenda of amendments based on the opportunities of settling the issues generated as a result thereof and elaborate a concept paper on reforms and draft amendments.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to form a new body ensuring the implementation of the reforms and specify the directions of the further process of the constitutional reforms. In particular, it is expected to specify the procedural issues concerning the process of implementing constitutional reforms, organise widely inclusive discussions, carry out needs assessment, determine the directions of reforms and submit the documents elaborated as a result thereof to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
3.	<p>3. SETTLING THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING THE APPLICATION OF THE ELECTORAL LEGISLATION</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action for improving the electoral legislation is aimed at ensuring the continuous improvement of the electoral legislation through settling the issues recorded during the application thereof. The Action stems from point 5.1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The 2018 and the 2021 parliamentary elections showed that free elections are guaranteed in Armenia, the people irreversibly exercise their power — guaranteed by the Constitution — through elections and other means of direct democracy.</p> <p>For the purpose of institutional establishment of the system prescribed by the democratic electoral legislation in Armenia, the Government will persistently continue to implement the reforms aimed at the exercise of the right of suffrage and improvement of the electoral process.</p> <p>Particularly, a number of issues were recorded as a result of the 2021 parliamentary elections, for the settlement whereof it is necessary to amend the electoral legislation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Based on the considerations of functioning of institutional democracy, it is recommended to inventory-take the issues having arisen as a result of the parliamentary elections and those of local self-government bodies held in 2018 and 2019 and, based thereon, draw up a draft on making amendments to</p>

	<p>the Electoral Code. It is particularly envisaged to make the directions of settling the issues revealed within the scope of the electoral legislation a subject of discussion.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to eliminate the existing shortcomings of the electoral legislation. New toolkits for specification and effective maintenance of lists of electors, identification of electors and interoperability of databases will be introduced through legislative reforms and technical equipment and technical re-arming.</p>
4.	<p>4. ELABORATING AND INTRODUCING A UNIFIED PLATFORM FOR ELECTRONIC JUSTICE (E-JUSTICE.AM)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Introduction of a unified platform for electronic justice pursues the aim to ensure the possibility to undertake processes implemented by the bodies of the justice sector and participate therein remotely and through the use of one unified electronic office, thereby reducing the time limits of proceedings conducted by state bodies and the costliness thereof. The Action stems from Chapters 5.3, 5.5, and 5.6 of Section 5 titled "Law and justice" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The circulation of documents within the bodies of the justice sector is mostly carried out with the use of hard copies and proceedings are conducted in person. As a result thereof, the volume of technical functions continues to remain high within state bodies. The quality of processing of the data received by state bodies is low, as a result whereof data analysis becomes impossible or difficult, which would allow ensuring the implementation of evidence-based policy.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of creating electronic tools or revising the existing tools, it is envisaged to introduce in the justice sector systems mostly based on data (in contrast to documents), by ensuring the largest possible volume of automation of technical operations and the opportunity to remotely participate in the ongoing processes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to increase the effectiveness of the activity of the bodies of the justice sector as a result of creating and developing electronic tools, make justice more accessible and available.</p>
5.	<p>5. REVIEWING THE PROCEDURAL LAW FOR SETTLING ISSUES ARISEN IN LAW-ENFORCEMENT PRACTICE AND FULLY INTRODUCING ELECTRONIC TOOLS IN PROCEDURES</p>

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

Reviewing the procedural law is conditioned by correcting the legislative gaps having arisen in the sector of civil and administrative procedure, by the necessity to bring separate legal institutions into compliance with the current trends in the development of the sector based on the identification of issues emerged as a result of the permanent monitoring of the reforms previously made. The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

By the adoption of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 9 February 2018, civil justice was reformed and a number of new institutions were introduced, which were aimed at reducing the workload of the court and increasing the effectiveness of examination of the case. However, issues related to some new regulations were recorded upon decisions of the Constitutional Court and the Court of Cassation, and at the same time controversial approaches emerged with regard to applying the new institutions in practice. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the existing issues and point out the ways for the solution thereof. The development of simplified proceedings through applying electronic tools, the exchange of electronic documents and data in procedure are also of significant importance for easing the workload of civil courts.

To increase the effectiveness of administrative justice, laws envisaging amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia were adopted during 2020-2021, which were mainly aimed at decreasing the workload of the Administrative Court and envisaging written procedures. However, some fundamental institutions of the administrative procedure remain unmodernised, and various issues have emerged in practice, for example, in relation to the ways of and procedure for notification and other matters. To ease the workload of administrative courts the necessity to introduce simplified proceedings for certain types of administrative cases and apply electronic tools with regard to the conduct of simplified proceedings is of major importance as well.

Besides, the introduction of electronic justice tools also requires a comprehensive review of legislation and adjustment thereof — to the extent possible — to the systems to be introduced in terms of electronic evidence, electronic document circulation, electronic maintenance and examination of cases, and making electronic notifications.

Thus, it is necessary to make amendments to the above-mentioned legislative acts based on the issues arisen and identified in the law enforcement practice, as well as the needs of introduction of electronic justice.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to elaborate the drafts of the law envisaging amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, the law envisaging amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia and of related laws.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the implementation of the Action, it is expected to establish proper legal grounds and mechanisms for launching various components of the electronic justice systems, provide solutions to the law enforcement issues and legislative gaps emerged as a result of the recent reforms of the

	<p>procedural law, develop the simplified proceedings for certain types of cases, whereby it is expected to guarantee the increase in the effectiveness of civil and administrative justice. As a result, it is expected to increase the level of accessibility and effectiveness of justice for persons involved in the process of civil procedure, increase the level of accessibility of justice for participants of administrative proceedings, the participants of proceedings are notified of procedural actions more effectively, and the time limits for court examination have been reduced.</p>
6.	<p>6. CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIALISED COURTS AND SUB-SPECIALISATIONS OF JUDGES</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Trends in the development of law and social relations result in branching within the same sector, specialisation of law based on different sub-sectors, which also leads to the necessity for separating the so-called sub-specialisations of judges, for instance, cases of judicial oversight of corruption crimes, pre-trial criminal proceedings, commercial disputes, tax offence cases, etc. In such cases, it is more expedient to talk not only about establishing specialised courts, but also about either the opportunity of separating individually specialised judges in the court of general jurisdiction or any specialised court, or about establishing such a court of general jurisdiction where cases of such sub-sectors, sub-specialisation may be examined. The Action stems from points 5.3 and 5.5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, in terms of specialisation of judges, their specialisation is envisaged according to the sectors of law — civil, criminal and administrative, and within the civil specialisation — the bankruptcy specialisation, as well. Although the possibility to separate judges in certain types of cases is available in legislation, such mechanisms are not introduced in institutional terms, but it is left to the discretion of the Supreme Judicial Council. In this regard, importance is attached to establishing an Administrative Chamber in the Court of Cassation separate in institutional terms, which will deal only with the examination of cassation appeals submitted in administrative cases. At the same time, currently, within the scope of the Anti-Corruption Strategy, activities are carried out aimed at the activities of establishing the anti-corruption institutional system. Particularly, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption was formed back in 2019, which is vested with functions of corruption prevention. At the same time, in 2020, the Department for Confiscation of Property of Illicit Origin was established in the composition of the Prosecutor General's Office within the scope of the Anti-Corruption Strategy, which exercises functions of confiscation of property of illicit origin through civil law procedures. Within this context, the Law "On the Anti-Corruption Committee" and the related laws were adopted on 24 March 2021 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in the second reading and in full. The Anti-Corruption Committee is an investigative body which will conduct examination of corruption crimes. The Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Committee was appointed by the Government on 16 September 2021. At the same time, on 22 October 2021, the thirty autonomous vacant positions of the Anti-Corruption Committee were replenished as prescribed, as a result whereof the Law "On Anti-Corruption Committee" and the related laws entered into force and are effective. For the purpose of creating the other element of the anti-corruption institutional system, on 14 April 2021, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Laws "On making amendments and supplements to the Constitutional Law 'Judicial</p>

	<p>Code"" and the related laws in the second reading and in full, which provide for the establishment of a specialised anti-corruption court, as well as introduction of judges with relevant specialisation in the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation. It should be noted that for the purpose of considering the issue of constitutionality of the package of the above-mentioned legal acts, the President filed an application to the Constitutional Court, which was deemed to be rejected within the context of the regulations of part 9 of Article 62 of the Law "On the Constitutional Court" as a result of a tie vote at the session of 12 October 2021. Conditioned by the above-mentioned, the legal acts under consideration entered into force on 29 October 2021. At the same time, taking into account the international obligations undertaken and the policy adopted in the anti-corruption sector, it is necessary to continue the activities for establishing the specialised anti-corruption court by providing the latter with relevant material and human resources, as well as high professional qualities and judges of integrity. From the perspective of ensuring the specialisation of judges, considering the opportunity and expediency of judges examining small claims, as well as certain types of administrative cases, establishment of a military tribunal and other specialised courts may also be of major importance.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to enshrine by legislation the possibility of creating separate sub-specialisations of judges in the court of general jurisdiction and specialised courts. It is noteworthy that such steps have already been taken, particularly through introducing the institution of judges examining motions on pre-trial criminal proceedings and operational-intelligence measures. At the same time, it is recommended to ensure the continuity of the process aimed at creating the specialised anti-corruption court and provide the latter with necessary material and human resources. It is also recommended to separate a specialised administrative chamber in the Court of Cassation, which will only deal with the administration of administrative justice, as well as to consider the issue of expediency to create courts specialised in other sectors.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Narrow specialisation of judges may have a positive impact on increasing the effectiveness of administration of justice. First of all, on the one hand, the narrow specialisation will ensure the most professional examination of cases, especially when the word goes of the examination of cases that require application of difficult, complex legal relations and narrow professional knowledge, and, on the other hand, will provide an opportunity to re-distribute the overall workload of the judicial system. A separate Administrative Chamber will be separated in the Court of Cassation, which will deal only with the examination of cassation appeals brought in administrative cases and, as a result, the effectiveness of administration of administrative justice in the Court of Cassation will increase. As a result of the implementation of this Action, it is also expected to ensure and complete the process of establishment of the anti-corruption institutional system. Besides, it is expected that upon the establishment of the specialised Anti-Corruption Court, the investigation of corruption-related criminal and civil cases will be conducted by judges with high professional capacities and of integrity, who will enjoy the support and confidence of the general public. In the final result, it is expected to ensure a developed anti-corruption institutional system which, in its turn, will contribute to the reduction of corruption and increase in public confidence in the bodies of state power. Where appropriate, other specialised courts may also be established.</p>
7.	7. INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF CIVIL DISPUTES (CASES) WITH SMALL CLAIMS

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The objective of development of mechanisms for settling civil disputes (cases) with small claims through extra-judicial procedure is to ease the workload of judges, re-distribute the overall workload, reduce the time limits of case examination in the courts of general jurisdiction, ensure that disputes are settled more quickly, effectively and within reasonable time limits. The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, a large number of cases with regard to claims for levy of an amount is received in courts of first instance of general jurisdiction. In particular, in 2018, the number thereof constituted 72.072, in 2019 — 108.543, and in 2020 — 92.543 cases. Around 80% of the mentioned cases comprise civil cases with small claims.</p> <p>As a result, the courts of first instance of general jurisdiction receive 160.000 cases per year, as a result whereof around 2900 civil cases with small claims are annually pending in proceedings conducted by one judge. Thus, as a result of the examination of civil cases with small claims, the workload of judges of courts of general jurisdiction considerably increases.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate a legislative package aimed at the development of mechanisms for settling civil disputes (cases) with small claims through extra-judicial procedure. At the same time, it is recommended to establish effective mechanisms for providing writ of execution for disputes (cases) with small claims resolved through extra-judicial procedure and enforcement processes, which will also contribute to the achievement of the objective defined.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result, disputes related to cases of pecuniary claims with a certain maximum threshold will be primarily settled through extra-judicial procedure, as a result whereof the general workload of courts will ease or be re-distributed, general reduction of time limits of case examination in courts of general jurisdiction will take place, and effective mechanisms for providing writ of execution for disputes (cases) with small claims resolved through extra-judicial procedure and for enforcement processes will also be envisaged.</p>
8.	<p>8. ENHANCING ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Actions recommended are conditioned by the necessity for easing the workload of courts, reducing the time limits for examination of cases, as well as envisaging mechanisms for settling disputes in a more flexible and at the same time affordable and effective manner for parties. In its turn, the development of alternative mechanisms for dispute settlement and, as a result, ensuring the foreseeability of settlement of commercial disputes may lead to the increase in the investment attractiveness of Armenia. The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p>

1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the courts are operating in conditions of overload; moreover, the majority of cases pending in court proceedings are certain types of cases; for instance, 104,465 cases were received during 2020 in courts of first instance of general jurisdiction, 92,543 (88.58%) whereof were on the claim for levy of an amount. In its turn, 88,372 applications for issuing payment orders were submitted during the same period. Moreover, in the case of the mentioned cases and applications disputes (applications) with the participation of financial organisations make up a large number, as effective mechanisms for alternative methods for settlement of such disputes are lacking. It should be noted, however, that several arbitration centres are currently operating in Armenia, which are mostly operating at the local level by examining cases of international nature only in exceptional cases. Therefore, for the purpose of increasing the competition in the sector of examination of disputes through arbitration procedure, it is necessary to establish, found a new arbitration centre able to examine both international, regional and local cases. Both the practice of establishment and operation of the relatively newly-created arbitration centres (Arbitration Centre of Russia, Arbitration Centres of Astana and Dubai) and the practice of the traditional centres enjoying high international reputation (Centres of London, Stockholm and Zürich) should be taken into account in establishing the centre. The new arbitration centre must examine both disputes of general commercial nature and cases with small claims (for instance disputes with the participation of financial organisations and organisations providing public services), through special proceedings. In its turn, in case of disputes of general commercial nature, the new centre must be an effective platform for examination of specialised cases, such as information technology, investment, corporate disputes or others.

As regards the regulations on mediation, it should be noted that currently there are no legal regulations on on-line mediation, in certain cases (for instance, disputes in domestic affairs) compulsory mediation, which also has its negative impact on the above-mentioned issues. In its turn, as a result of settling the mentioned issues, it is expected that a necessity will arise to increase the number of mediators, conditioned whereby it is necessary to review the legal mechanisms for engaging, teaching new mediators, maintaining and selecting the registry thereof. At the same time, the procedures for qualification and training of mediators are not sufficiently regulated.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

As a result of the above-mentioned, it is recommended to make amendments to the Law "On mediation" by providing for legal regulations on on-line mediation, in certain cases (for instance, disputes in domestic affairs) compulsory mediation, as well as other legal regulations aimed at developing the relations of the mediation sector, particularly, on the engagement of new mediators.

At the same time, it is recommended to found a new arbitration centre in Armenia, the activities for founding and further operation whereof will include well-known specialists, organisations of the sector (including arbitration centres), by introducing their experience and knowledge, as well as contributing to the establishment of the centre.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to create necessary conditions for engaging new mediators and increasing the number of mediators actually operating by up to 40%, carrying out their instruction and training, to create legislative solutions for implementing on-line mediation, introduce

	<p>compulsory mediation in domestic affairs, as a result whereof the number of cases of reconciliation in the mentioned cases will increase by up to 30%, easing the workload of courts.</p> <p>With respect to arbitration, it is expected to have a new institution examining international, regional and local arbitration cases through arbitration procedure, which will also examine cases with small claims and will be a platform for effective examination of commercial and other disputes, by again easing the workload of courts, at the same time ensuring the professionalism and flexibility of examination of cases. Moreover, the new arbitration centre will examine such specialised cases which may arise in information technology, investment and corporate disputes.</p>
9.	<p>9. IMPROVING THE FACILITY CONDITIONS OF COURTS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 911-N of 3 June 2021, the Government agreed to increase the number of judges of the Administrative Court of Appeal, Civil Court of Appeal, and Bankruptcy Court of the Republic of Armenia by 3, 3 and 4 judges, respectively. The Government agreed upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1119-N of 8 July 2021 to increase the number of judges of the Criminal Court of Appeal of the Republic of Armenia by 3 judges, and the number of judges of the courts of first instance by 17 judges.</p> <p>Actions 2 and 3 provided for by Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1232-N of 3 October 2019 "On approving the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2019-2022 Action Plan for the implementation thereof", respectively, envisaged the Actions "Forming and ensuring the normal operation of the anti-corruption law-enforcement body — the Anti-Corruption Committee, vested with functions of disclosing and investigating corruption crimes and having sufficient guarantees of independence" and "Establishing specialised anti-corruption courts". The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Upon the above-mentioned Decisions of the Government, conditioned by the increase in the actual number of judges, it is necessary to provide necessary facility conditions and logistic support for the activity of the latter.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of providing with necessary facility conditions and logistic support for the activity of judges, it is necessary to repair and renovate the buildings allocated by the Government for this purpose, in particular, those located at "41/a Halabyan Street, city of Yerevan", "23/1 Garegin Nzhdeh Street, city of Yerevan" and "5/1 Ara Sargsyan Street, city of Yerevan", as well as to obtain necessary furnishing and equipment.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, the courts are provided with necessary logistic support.</p>

10.	<p>10. DEVELOPING THE SECTOR OF THE PROFESSION OF ADVOCATE</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>With a view to ensuring legal aid, the profession of advocate based on independence, self-governance and legal equality of advocates is guaranteed by the Constitution with the amendments of 2015. Conditioned by the above-mentioned, it is necessary to envisage legal mechanisms which will guarantee — to the extent possible — the principles of the profession of advocate enshrined at the constitutional level. In its turn, the Action is aimed at developing the scopes of and procedure for providing free legal aid as securing the fulfilment of the obligations of the State. The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, in accordance with the legal regulations prescribed by the Law "On the profession of advocate" (hereinafter referred to in this point as "Law"), the Office of Public Defender provides free legal aid only to persons of a certain circle, the list whereof is prescribed by the Law. However, it should be noted that there are also persons belonging to other groups, and it is expedient to envisage them in the list of beneficiaries of free legal aid.</p> <p>In its turn, the Law, in essence, includes no legal regulations regulating and promoting the provision of gratuitous legal aid by advocates, which could greatly promote the provision of legal aid to persons in need.</p> <p>At the same time, within the autonomy of the Chamber of Advocates, it is necessary to improve the internal mechanisms of the Chamber of Advocates in accordance with the constitutional principle of self-governance of the profession of advocate.</p> <p>In its turn, the requirement of compulsory instruction at the School of Advocates does not take into account to the maximum extent possible the peculiarities of different circles of persons (education, professional experience and the path passed, etc.) wishing to obtain an advocate's license.</p> <p>Regulation on the qualification of advocates, as well as the professional training are mostly regulated by internal legal acts of the Chamber of Advocates, whereas it is expedient to some extent to regulate those relations at the legislative level, as the profession of advocate is an important institution of the society, and the public is interested in the existence of a professional advocate community and sustainable development thereof.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Accordingly, it is recommended to elaborate drafts of the Law "On envisaging amendments to the Law "On the profession of advocate" and related laws, whereby it will be necessary to review and expand the scope of persons having the right to receive free legal aid by both including therein persons belonging to new groups and eliminating the existing legal issues.</p> <p>In its turn, it is necessary to envisage in the Law legal norms regulating and promoting the provision of gratuitous legal aid by advocates, by ensuring the certainty of those relations, as well as creating guarantees for persons providing gratuitous legal aid. For the purpose of developing the internal</p>

	<p>mechanisms of the Chamber of Advocates, it is necessary to raise the role of the collegial bodies of the Chamber of Advocates, including envisaging new collegial bodies, which stems from the necessity of fully exercising the principle of self-governance of the profession of advocate, as well as to introduce new mechanisms for defining public oversight, since the profession of advocate is an activity of important public value, a public institution, conditioned whereby that institution has been enshrined constitutionally.</p> <p>As for the instruction at the School of Advocates and mechanisms for qualification of advocates, it is necessary to envisage flexible and distinguished systems for participating in qualification examinations, as well as for instruction at the School of Advocates, conditioned by the status of applicants (professional experience, education and other circumstances).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, the internal mechanisms of the Chamber of Advocates will be strengthened by substantiating the collegial management, as well as the implementation of the principle of self-governance of the profession of advocate within the scope thereof.</p> <p>The scope of beneficiaries of free legal aid will also be expanded, and criteria for receiving aid will be clarified, and the legal issues existing in the norms regulating those relations will be settled. In its turn, it is expected to introduce legal mechanisms regulating and encouraging the provision of voluntary gratuitous legal aid by advocates, by ensuring both the right of persons in need to receive legal aid and easing the workload of the Office of Public Defender. As a result of the Action, it is expected that the exercise of the principle of self-governance of the profession of advocate will be ensured more widely with regard to the management of the Chamber of Advocates, as well as the role of the collegial bodies of the Chamber of Advocates will increase. At the same time, it is expected to increase the public accountability of the activity of the Chamber of Advocates.</p> <p>In terms of qualification processes of advocates, it is expected to have flexible and distinguished approaches to qualification and instruction based on objective circumstances, by ensuring the sustainable development of the professional advocate community.</p>
11.	<p>11. REFORMING THE LEGISLATION ON BANKRUPTCY</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Elaborating the Concept Paper on Reviewing the Bankruptcy Legislation and the new draft Bankruptcy Code is aimed at ensuring the resolution of the issues having arisen and identified in the law-enforcement practice. The implementation of continuous improvements in line with the global trends in the bankruptcy sector and developing economic relations is important based not only on the justice system but also on the necessity of improving the business environment. Besides, the necessity for comprehensive review of the legislation is also conditioned by the importance of ensuring legislative grounds necessary for introducing the electronic justice. The Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The necessity for elaborating a new Bankruptcy Code is conditioned by the importance of regulating all procedural and material aspects related to</p>

	<p>bankruptcy proceedings by a single unified document. Within the scope of the Bankruptcy Code, it is necessary, <i>inter alia</i>, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. essentially change the bankruptcy model of the Republic of Armenia, by separating the liquidation and recovery processes — envisage a recovery or liquidation plan from the onset; 2. clarify the status of all possible parties and participants to bankruptcy proceedings; 3. improve the legal regulations of bankruptcy of natural persons; 4. reduce the time limits of bankruptcy proceedings; 5. review all current regulations that include corruption risks; 6. review the matters on the management of the property and business of the debtor by the bankruptcy manager; 7. envisage legal regulations on transnational bankruptcy; 8. envisage special bankruptcy procedures for separate subjects. <p>The introduction of the currently elaborated electronic justice introduced stage by stage, including the electronic bankruptcy system will also require existence of legislation complying thereto, which will enable the conduct of bankruptcy proceedings starting from institution and ending with the completion thereof, conduct them electronically without additional document circulation, by excluding, to the extent possible, human intervention and carrying out the processes without the direct participation of the parties.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate the Concept Paper on Reviewing Bankruptcy Legislation and a new Bankruptcy Code based thereon, whereby a number of issues having arisen and identified in the law enforcement practice will be regulated comprehensively.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>It is expected to provide a solution to the issues existing in the law enforcement practice of the bankruptcy sector, ensure the examination of bankruptcy cases within shortest time limits, increase in the number of cases of financial recoveries, creation of opportunities for examining and disposing of transnational bankruptcy cases, conducting bankruptcy proceedings electronically and envisaging special bankruptcy procedures for separate subjects.</p>
12.	<p>12. LAUNCHING THE UNIFIED OFFICE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES UNDER THE "ONE-STOP SHOP" PRINCIPLE IN ALL MARZES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA, WHERE CITIZENS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AS MANY STATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING IMPROVED SERVICES IN THE SECTOR OF CIVIL STATUS ACTS REGISTRATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action <p>The objective of the Action recommended is elaborating and introducing such a system for provision of public services which will enable the provision of</p>

	<p>possibly fastest, simplest, most transparent, corruption-free public services through optimal resources, by ensuring a high quality of service, universal availability and accessibility of public services. The Action stems from points 5.3 and 6.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>On 22 July 2020, the Ministry of Justice launched the “Unified Office for Public Services”, where citizens may not only use all the public services of the Ministry of Justice but also the services of other agencies, some of which are directly interconnected. The pilot programme was aimed at understanding the shortcomings of providing centralised services that arise in practice and opening such centres through systemic solutions in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, wherein all the public services will be included.</p> <p>At the same time, it should be noted that on 18 January 2021, the National Assembly adopted two new laws and amendments to eight laws in the second reading and in full, which are aimed at ensuring the digitalisation of the public services of the Ministry of Justice, simplification of administration, reduction of time limits, increase in the quality of the services provided, decrease in corruption risks, convenience of services provided to citizens. Particularly, the front and back office format of provision of the services and the legal grounds for establishing unified offices for public services have been defined.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the experience of the “Unified Office for Public Services” launched in 2020, within the scope of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Programme”) approved by Decision of the Government No 1363-N of 18 August 2021, the Government defined various programmes in the sector of the services provided by the State to the public, aimed at reforming the quality of services provided by the State to the public by making them citizen-centred and modern, with an advanced technological basis, aiming to ease the unnecessary burden of citizens and the business sector, reducing the administration in relations with the State. In particular, in point 5.5 of the Programme, the Government attached importance from the perspective of the proportionate development of territories to the expansion of the unified offices for public services in all marzes, and it is prescribed in point 6.2 entitled “Services provided by the State to the public” that the Government will also undertake to elaborate and introduce a modern model of unified offices for services with regard to the services provided by the State to the public.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate and introduce a new model of "Unified Offices for Public Services" in the whole territory of the Republic through the co-operation with other agencies providing public services, at least in each marz centre, by expanding the list of the services provided, by including therein the whole spectrum of public services. It is also recommended to elaborate and adopt the Concept Paper on Introducing the New System for Providing Public Services.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Introducing the Concept Paper, as well as opening offices for public services in all marzes will serve as a basis for correcting the yearslong ineffective, traditional and poor-quality formats of provision of public services, by transforming them to more developed and modern formats, within the scope</p>
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	whereof the transparency of service provision, competition of service centres, increase in service quality and the permanent monitoring thereof, protection of rights and interests of applicants will be ensured, excessive administration will be reduced, and corruption risks existing in the sector of public service provision will be excluded.
13.	<p>13. ADOPTING THE 2023-2025 ACTION PLAN STEMMING FROM THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION</p> <p>1. NECESSITY FOR AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION</p> <p>The new National Strategy for Human Rights Protection and the 2020-2022 Action Plan stemming therefrom were adopted upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1978-L of 26 December 2019. The deadline for implementation of the actions envisaged by the 2020-2022 Action Plan has been defined 2022. For the purpose of ensuring the continuity of the policy of the Government in the sector of human rights protection, it is necessary to elaborate a single unified document defining the specific and targeted actions aimed at the implementation of the Strategy for the next 3 years (2023-2025). The Action stems from point 5.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The policy of the Government in the sector of human rights protection has been enshrined upon the new National Strategy for Human Rights Protection, and the actions ensuring the implementation thereof have been defined upon the 2020-2022 Action Plan. Taking into account the fact that the 2020-2022 Action stemming from the 2020-2022 National Strategy for Human Rights Protection will expire in 2022, a necessity to elaborate a new 2023-2025 Action Plan arises.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate the 2023-2025 Action Plan stemming from the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection for a term of 3 years, the objective whereof is to make the activities of the Republican executive bodies and state bodies established by law more co-ordinated and effective, which will make the implementation of the objectives enshrined by Article 3 of the Constitution and the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia possible.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The 2023-2025 Action Plan for Human Rights Protection will be elaborated and adopted, which will address through clear actions and provide target solutions to the current issues in various fields of human rights protection in a co-ordinated manner.</p>
14.	<p>14. RAISING THE LEVEL OF PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION</p> <p>14.1. Ensuring domestic procedures required for entry into force of the Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) (Convention 108+)</p>

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The Convention is one of the main international documents operating in the sector of personal data protection, which entered into force for Armenia on 1 September 2012. At the same time, the Protocol was considered at the meeting of the Ad hoc Committee on Data Protection (CAHDATA) which was held on 15-16 June 2016 in Strasbourg and is known as a document on modernisation of Convention 108 or as Convention 108+. The Protocol reflects the developments in the sector of personal data protection, therefore the ratification thereof will ensure bringing into compliance with the current international developments of personal data protection for the Republic of Armenia. The Action stems from point 5.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Ratification of Convention 108+ was envisaged in the actions ensuring the implementation of the 2019-2023 Programme of Activities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and Armenia has started the process of ratification. Particularly, on 2 October 2019 Armenia signed the Protocol amending Convention 108, and on 14 January 2021 the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the legislative initiative of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the draft Law "On ratifying the Protocol amending Convention 108" and applied to the Constitutional Court for the purpose of determining the compliance of the obligations enshrined therein with the Constitution. The Constitutional Court found upon Decision SDVo-1588 of 13 April 2021 that the obligations enshrined in the Protocol amending Convention 108 are in compliance with the Constitution.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account that Armenia has not ratified Convention 108+ yet, that is, the action envisaged in the actions ensuring the implementation of the 2019-2023 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia has not actually completed, the action envisaging the ratification of Convention 108+ is recommended for completing the process of ratification in a consistent manner.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Ratifying the Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) (Convention 108+) will ensure compliance for the Republic of Armenia with the current international developments in personal data protection.

14.2. Bringing newly-adopted, as well as existing legal acts envisaging processing of personal data into compliance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On personal data protection", with the principles of processing of personal data prescribed by law

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The Action is targeted at the harmonisation of the legislation envisaging the processing of personal data, that is bringing the processes of personal data protection implemented in various sectors into compliance with the principles of personal data protection stemming from Article 34 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On personal data protection". The Action stems from point 5.2 of Decision of the Government of

the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Law "On personal data protection" was adopted in 2015, by substituting the Law "On individual data", which although prescribed the right to personal (in the terminology of the previous Law — individual) data protection, was declaratory at the level of principles, was not modern and did not reflect the essence of the principles of data protection, as well as did not envisage the protective mechanisms which exist in the new Law. Instead, the Law "On personal data protection" was adopted following the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data in 2012 and materialising the convention and directive principles of personal data processing (the word goes of Directive 95/46 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, as well as to the modernised version thereof — the General Data Protection Regulation — already elaborated in 2015).

As a result, it appeared from the practice of applying the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On personal data protection" that both in the newly adopted draft legal acts and in legal acts already in effect, the principles of personal data processing are not properly reflected; in other words, it is being envisaged or it is already envisaged in various legal acts to have such a personal data processing which does not comply with the principles of personal data processing.

The issue that the principles of personal data processing are not properly reflected both in newly adopted draft legal acts and legal acts already in effect, envisaging personal data processing, was predetermined back in the previous years; thus, upon the recommendation of the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority (Personal Data Protection Agency) it was reflected in the actions ensuring the implementation of the 2019-2023 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, wherein, *inter alia*, it is envisaged to bring the newly adopted legal acts envisaging personal data processing into compliance with the principles of personal data processing prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On personal data protection".

In 2019, upon the motion of the Agency, a relevant circular was also submitted to the sub-divisions of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia (particularly, the word goes of the Agency for Expert Examination of Legal Acts, whereto the legal acts are submitted for state legal expert examination) with regard to submitting the draft legal acts elaborated thereby or submitted thereto and those envisaging personal data processing to the Agency for opinion. It is a private action to resolve the issue; however, the issue is systemic and requires additional attention.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account that the process described is continuous within its sense and constantly needs attention, it is necessary to include it also in the actions ensuring the implementation of the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government as a regularly implemented action.

It is expected that the contextual implementation of the Action, that is the assessment of legal acts envisaging personal data processing from the perspective of the principles of personal data processing, will be carried out by the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority, but the bodies of the state administration system are mentioned as co-implementing bodies of the Action, as legal acts envisaging personal data processing are initiated (elaborated) or considered within different bodies; thus, it is necessary to emphasise the necessity for bringing the legal acts elaborated thereby or

submitted thereto and those envisaging personal data processing into compliance with the principles of personal data processing (submitting to the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority for opinion, seeking consultation, etc.).

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The domestic legislation envisaging personal data processing will be brought into compliance with the principles of personal data processing, which, on the one hand, is an important component for ensuring personal data protection and, on the other hand, will provide legal certainty and allow to avoid misinterpretations in personal data processing.

14.3. STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES (HUMAN RESOURCES, PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL) OF THE AUTHORISED PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The Action is targeted at providing the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority (Personal Data Protection Agency) with capacities necessary for properly responding to the challenges and issues emerging in the sector of personal data processing.

The Action stems from point 5.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Personal data are valuable information which have certain internal sensitivity due to their status (being personal, private) and impact on human and whereby it is possible to interfere in this or that human right (the word goes of any intervention, not necessarily illegal). On the other hand, in conditions of development of science and technology, personal data are being processed more and more; moreover, both the volume of the data being processed and that of the interference in personal data is increasing.

It appeared from the practice of applying the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On personal data protection" adopted in 2015 that there is an issue related to personal data protection in almost all sectors. As a result, on the one hand, personal data are sensitive and valuable information whereby it is possible to legally or illegally interfere with the human life or other rights in this or that way, and the volume of application whereof is gradually increasing, and on the other hand, the principles of personal data processing are not properly reflected in legal acts envisaging personal data processing (therefore, in the practice of application of those laws, as well), the level of unawareness and ignorance is high, personal data are processed by inertia in most cases, "insofar as" without due attention, including the word goes of the use of own data both by laws and the very persons.

Moreover, the issue of lack of awareness-raising and knowledge reflects not only on the lack of skills of personal data protection of a person in private life, but also to raising the awareness and knowledge of personal data protection among persons dealing with personal data processing within state bodies.

	<p>However, the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority has limited resources (human, financial, technical). The above-mentioned issue is more evident in the following function performed by the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority: thus, for the purpose of increasing the knowledge and awareness of persons and data processors of the right to personal data protection, upon the invitation of different organisations and agencies during 2020, as well as upon its own initiative it has conducted 27 instructions; moreover, 26 for around 1650 persons, 600 whereof were officers of the penitentiary service, 500 — social workers, 400 — healthcare workers, 49 — state employees, 44 — journalists, 32 — students, 25 — employees of an educational institution, and 1 more instruction in a Facebook group with 70.000 followers. Around thirty instructions have been conducted for more than 1130 persons in 2019. Or, for the purpose of informing people on ways of resolving the issues in the sector of personal data protection that relate to the wide layers of the public and make them concerned, as well as preventing the violations of the right to personal data protection, the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority has elaborated and published more than ten guides (formation of soft law), one of which has also been published with the support of UNICEF within the scope of the programme "Strengthening of multi-sectoral national platform targeted at planning, implementation and evaluation of the activities for ending violence against children" implemented by the "Centre for the implementation of legal education and rehabilitation programmes" SNCO. Despite the above-mentioned, financial resources allocated to instructions or public campaign are not envisaged at all in the budget of the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority, which includes only the remuneration of employees (civil servants) of the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority, or the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority does not have a convenient territory for instructions, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The challenges of personal data protection are diverse and may change; therefore, state care and attention to capacities of the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority are needed, and it is also necessary to include the strengthening of capacities of the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority in the actions ensuring the implementation of the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government as a regularly implemented action, as well as, despite the above-mentioned private example, to envisage a certain financial reserve for implementing situational organisational and technical actions. Moreover, it is expected to use the financial resources to create such tools or implement actions which will ensure a long-term result to the extent possible.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The operational independence of the Authorised Personal Data Protection Authority, as well as the proper toolkit and measures necessary for the implementation of personal data protection will be ensured.</p>
15.	<p>15. IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY FOR REFORMS IN THE PENITENTIARY AND PROBATION SECTOR</p> <p>15.1. MAKING LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TARGETED AT REVIEWING THE STATUS OF THE PROBATION SERVICE AS A SEPARATE TYPE OF STATE SERVICE AND EXPANSION OF SOCIAL GUARANTEES OF PROBATION OFFICERS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the unification of the distinguished approach expressed in conditions of the social guarantees existing between the Probation Service and other bodies executing punishment. The objective of the implementation of the Action is to</p>

observe, through legislative amendments, the possibility of changing the status of the Probation Service and reviewing the system of social guarantees of probation officers (through providing necessary and sufficient guarantees for independence), whereby the effectiveness of the activity of the Probation Service will be increased.

The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 entitled “Reforms in the penitentiary and probation sector” of Section 5 entitled “Law and justice” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the bodies executing punishment have a unique status and wider opportunities of social guarantees stemming therefrom, taking as a basis the peculiarities of execution of punishment, including the nature of the work carried out with the convict.

Being a body executing punishment, the Probation Service operating under the subordination of the Ministry of Justice does not have such a status and does not enjoy such social guarantees as other bodies executing punishment. Civil service is carried out in the Probation Service. That is to say, in its status and in conditions of existing social guarantees, a differentiated approach is displayed between the Probation Service and other bodies executing punishment.

Within the context of the above-stated, it should be recorded that the Probation Service was formed on the basis of the Division for Execution of Alternative Punishments of the Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to in this point as “DEAP”), which resulted in a number of issues. Particularly, the employees included in the composition of the Probation Service from DEAP and those newly employed in the Probation Service have appeared to be at different levels of social protection: the first ones, having made a transition to the Probation Service pursuant to Article 67 of the Law “On probation”, have maintained the salary defined therefor in the DEAP, which is almost twice higher than that of newly employed ones. In conditions of identical work-load in terms of the same volume, qualification, same level, time of work, such differentiated approach is not justified. This has also been recorded in the report of the Human Rights Defender. Parallel thereto, the employees having transferred to the Probation Service from the DEAP may, in case being appointed to a another position different from the initial one (even through promotion), lose the social guarantees package vested in them, due to which the positions envisaging promotion for such officers are not attractive.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account the above-stated, it is recommended:

- (1) to view the Probation Service as an independent type of public service;
- (2) not to differentiate between the probation officers;
- (3) to define the salary rates of probation officers in a separate table of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions and state service positions”;
- (4) to envisage legal regulations on terms and requirements for appointing to position in the Probation Service and expand the quantity of staff

positions of the Service;

- (5) to define the titles conferred to probation officers, time limits for conferring titles, relations pertaining to the appointment to a position, attestation, application of special measures, incentives and disciplinary measures in the Probation Service.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the change in the status of the Probation Service, a uniform approach to probation officers will be displayed. The Probation Service will be deemed to be an independent type of public service with its peculiarities. Particularly, conditions of taking probation service, requirements, titles conferred and time limits, incentives and disciplinary sanctions, grounds for dismissing from probation service, etc., will be defined. The salary rates of probation officers will be defined in a separate table. The change in the status of the Probation Service will create necessary pre-conditions not only for increasing the effectiveness of the probation institution, but also for forming a corruption-free culture in the Probation System.

15.2. EQUIPPING THE PROBATION SERVICE WITH RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURES REQUIRED FOR ELECTRONIC CONTROL

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The policy implemented in the recent years by the Government of the Republic of Armenia is targeted at establishing a penitentiary system complying with international standards, transitioning from punitive policy to restorative justice, and enrooting the principles of restorative justice in the sector of criminal punishments.

It is noteworthy that, by attaching importance to the ideology of restorative justice, it has been emphasised in the current Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia that the Government should continue to take steps aimed at developing and improving the probation institute, and for the purpose of effectively applying the new types of punishment and measures of restraint that are an alternative to deprivation of liberty introduced in the legal system based on the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code already adopted, the Probation Service will be armed with the resources and infrastructures necessary for electronic control. The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 titled "Reforms in the penitentiary and probation sector" of Section 5 titled "Law and justice" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The new Criminal Procedure Code (to enter into force on 1 July 2022) provides for home detention and administrative control as alternative measures of restraint.

The new Criminal Code provides for a new type of punishment that is an alternative to imprisonment — restriction of liberty (the regulations with respect to the latter will enter into force on 1 July 2023). This type of punishment is an alternative punishment related to keeping the convict under control at home without isolating him or her from the society, which may be imposed on persons subjected to criminal liability for certain crimes provided for by law. Those convicted to this type of punishment do not leave off, for instance, education, but certain restrictions provided for by law may

be imposed thereon. In particular, they may be prohibited to be absent from home at certain hours, visit various institutions (clubs, other places of entertainment, etc.). Both the mentioned measures of restraint and the indicated new type of punishment are objectively possible to imposed with the help of electronic control devices which are attached either to the hand or foot of the person deprived of liberty. Via the application of the electronic control devices, the Probation Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia — whereon the execution of home arrest, administrative control and restriction of liberty will be placed, will be able to monitor the movement of a person and, in case of a violation, immediately record it.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It should be emphasised that introduction of the electronic control system is conditioned both by enrooting the principles of restorative justice and saving the appropriate financial resources by the State. In this regard, it should be noted that currently the State spends around AMD 13.000 to keep one person deprived of liberty in a penitentiary institution, and reduction of expenses will be recorded in the State Budget through the actual use of electronic control devices, by taking into account that the price proposals submitted by the organisations providing electronic control (1 electronic device was within the range of AMD 2000-3000) are almost 4 times less than the funds spent by the State for keeping one person deprived of liberty in a penitentiary institution.

Taking into account the aforementioned, active steps have been taken aimed at acquiring electronic control devices. As of this moment, within the scope of the grant allocated within the framework of the EU Budget Support, it has become possible to ensure the necessary financial allocation. Nevertheless, it should be taken into account that activities for replenishing the electronic control devices should be carried out in 2022 by ensuring a reasonable quantity of the electronic control devices.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the introduction of the electronic control system, pre-conditions will be created for imposing measures of restraint and punishments deemed to be an alternative to imprisonment, by enabling to control the person in conditions of not being isolated from the society.

15.3. INTRODUCING AND LAUNCHING THE E-PROBATION ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

In line with the trends in the development of innovative technologies, it is necessary to introduce in the services the E-probation electronic management system for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the activity of the Probation Service, reducing the circulation of documents, and ensuring an effective, transparent and accountable management.

The implementation of the mentioned Action stems from the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code already adopted, as well as Chapter 5.6 entitled “Amendments in the penitentiary and probation Sector” of Section 5 entitled “Law and justice” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Within the scope of the "Support the Scaling-Up of the Probation Service in Armenia" Project implemented by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the Council of Europe, an assessment mission has been carried out with regard to the issues of elaborating and introducing the e-probation electronic management system in the Probation Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.

Within this context it should be noted that the technical specifications have already been elaborated and submitted to the interested bodies. In the nearest future, a tender will be announced for the purpose of introducing the e-probation system and acquiring relevant technical equipment.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The e-probation electronic management system will give an opportunity to digitise the results of any activities carried out with probation beneficiaries.

3. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of introducing the e-probation electronic management system, it will be possible to make the activity of the Probation Service more effective, transparent and accountable, as well as to get free from excessive circulation of documents.

15.4. IMPROVING THE FACILITY CONDITIONS OF PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

It is necessary to improve the conditions for keeping of penitentiary institutions. The implementation of the Action is aimed at providing persons deprived of liberty with decent conditions for keeping, and ensuring the working and living conditions for the penitentiary officers.

The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 entitled "Reforms in the penitentiary and probation sector" of Section 5 entitled "Law and justice" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The primary objective is to improve the facility conditions and ensure logistic support in a number of penitentiary institutions. For instance, the facility conditions existing in "Hospital for Convicts" and "Nubarashen" Penitentiary Institutions of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia are extremely insufficient and subject to closure due to non-compliance with the technical parameters. At the same time, there is a need to carry out improvement activities in other penitentiary institutions as well, for the purpose of providing persons deprived of liberty with proper conditions for keeping. Taking into account the above-stated, it is necessary to carry out relevant infrastructural reforms, as the buildings and constructions are unsatisfactory in their current condition. From the perspective of economic effectiveness, it is also expedient to put into operation a new penitentiary institution in the upcoming years. The main components necessary for building a new penitentiary institution are as follows: constructing buildings and constructions, installing air ventilation and heating systems, installing security and video surveillance systems, installing outdoor guarding systems,

carrying out improvement activities, and furnishing.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to carry out:

- construction of a penitentiary institution and a hospital;
- improvement of facility conditions of penitentiary institutions — reconstructions and capital repair.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Necessary conditions for keeping will be provided for persons deprived of liberty, and necessary working and living conditions — for penitentiary officers.

15.5. RE-EQUIPPING PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS WITH MODERN VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS, CREATING AN OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The objectives of this Action are targeted at excluding all corruption phenomena in the penitentiary system, and overcoming the criminal sub-culture. Within this context, penitentiary institutions need to be re-equipped with control devices. Modernisation of the control tools, first of all, presumes re-equipment of penitentiary institutions with modern video surveillance systems, which will provide the opportunity to create an operational management centre and exclude — in conditions of control carried out on-line — such corruption phenomena prevailing in penitentiary institutions as extra walk, reduced quarantine period, open cells, failure to check parcels, etc. From this perspective, the Government is determined to exclude the corruption manifestations having enrooted in the system for years and "favourable conditions" for the existence of criminal sub-culture.

The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 entitled "Amendments in the penitentiary and probation sector" of Section 5 entitled "Law and justice" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It is noteworthy that the criminal sub-culture existing in the penitentiary institutions also creates favourable conditions for forming and enrooting the corruption setting. It should be noted that popular international institutions have touched upon the criminal sub-culture existing in penitentiary institutions. Thus, the delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) noticed again during their visit in 2015 that there was a common tendency of partially delegating powers to those put at the top level of informal hierarchical relations by the leading staff and personnel in the penitentiary institution and that of using the selected number of prisoners (so-called "alpha dogs") to carry out control over the persons kept in the penitentiary institution (maintain order among them). To exercise their powers, some

privileges were obviously granted to the "alpha dogs", such as an opportunity to move relatively freely and to enter any cell in the institution. The UN Committee for the Prevention of Torture has also touched upon the criminal sub-culture within the scope of the 2017 fourth periodic report of Armenia. The mentioned Committee found that the high incidence of violence between the persons deprived of liberty may be the result of criminal sub-culture and non-formal hierarchy.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Therefore, such steps should be undertaken which will put an end to the use of informal hierarchical relations in penitentiary institutions for the purpose of maintaining order in penitentiary institutions.

Accordingly, it is recommended to establish an operational management centre in the Penitentiary Service, the technical and software solutions whereof will enable to store and analyse the information received from the penitentiary institutions, as well as carry out on-line control over the sectors and areas of activity with potential corruption risks of penitentiary institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Re-equipment of the penitentiary institutions with modern video surveillance devices and establishment of an operational management centre will provide the opportunity to exclude the corruption practices existing in the sector.

15.6. INTRODUCING A MODEL OF TELEMEDICINE FOR PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY, CORRESPONDING TO THE VOLUME AND QUALITY OF MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED TO THE POPULATION BY ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL INFORMATION AND IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED PRINCIPLES

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

It has been emphasised in the current Programme of the Government that ongoing steps will be undertaken to guarantee the fundamental rights of persons deprived of liberty, including for the purpose of strengthening the link with the outside world, improving the conditions for keeping, increasing the quality of medical care and service provided to them and raising the effectiveness of the process of re-socialisation.

The objectives of this direction are targeted at the modernisation of medical service in penitentiary institutions. The system of medical aid and service in the penitentiary system also needs transformation by taking into account that the right to health care is the natural human right, and particular importance is attached thereto in conditions of isolation from the society. Based on the importance of resolving the above-mentioned issues, one of the key directions of the policy of the Government in the recent period is to carry out reforms in the prison healthcare sector. Guaranteeing the rights of persons in penitentiary institutions to health care and medical aid continues to be deemed as an issue requiring primary and urgent solution. The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 entitled "Amendments in the penitentiary and probation sector" of Section 5 entitled "Law and justice" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

On 1 November 2019, the Project "Strengthening the Healthcare and Human Rights Protection in Prisons in Armenia" implemented jointly by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the Council of Europe was launched, within the scope whereof a number of targeted actions are envisaged.

Within the scope of the Project, the possibility of introducing telemedicine in the sector of prison healthcare was also targeted.

Currently, the technical requirements have already been elaborated, which are agreed upon with the interested bodies. In the nearest future, upon the introduction of telemedicine it will be possible, on the one hand, to eliminate the risk of delaying the time limits for medical aid and service, and on the other hand, to fill the possible shortage of specialists on the spot.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of reducing the risk of delaying the provision of medical aid and service to persons deprived of liberty, it is envisaged to introduce a telemedicine pilot model in penitentiary institutions of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. Telemedicine will be carried out in penitentiary institutions in accordance with the principles of ensuring the confidentiality of personal and medical information of the detained persons and the convicts, as well as complying with the volume and quality of medical consultations provided among the population and recognised internationally. Telemedicine will be introduced by taking into account the principles of equal accessibility and informed consent of patients. In the course of introducing telemedicine, the confidentiality of medical information will be ensured by the requirements provided for by the Law "On medical aid and service to the population".

Main objectives of telemedicine are as follows:

- (1) modernisation of exercise of the right of patients to receive proper medical aid;
- (2) increase in the effectiveness of timely diagnosis and treatment of diseases requiring narrow professional consultation;
- (3) increase in the effectiveness of co-operation between the sub-divisions of "Prison Medical Center" SNCO of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of introduction of telemedicine in the prison healthcare sector, it will be possible to exclude the risk of delaying the time limits for medical aid and service, and at the same time fill the possible shortage of specialists on the spot.

15.7. ENVISAGING AND ENSURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING GENERAL EDUCATION FOR PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY, IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

Undertaking steps aimed at exercising the right to education of persons deprived of liberty is of unique importance among the re-socialisation actions, first of all the word goes of ensuring the implementation of general education for persons deprived of liberty. Within the context of ensuring the implementation of the right to education of persons deprived of liberty, it is necessary to conduct an assessment of educational needs of persons deprived of liberty, based whereon new educational programmes will be elaborated, or the existing programmes will be changed. Maintaining the outcomes of the above-mentioned steps and undertaking new steps will contribute to ensuring of the effectiveness of the re-socialisation process.

The Action stems from point 5.6 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It should be noted that from 2015 to 1 September 2019 general education of minors serving their punishment in the form of imprisonment and/or detained minors had not been ensured.

It is noteworthy that the reforms of this sector have already been launched. In particular, the "Centre for the implementation of legal education and rehabilitation programmes" SNCO of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia had obtained licences upon Order No 250-A/2 and Order No 251-A/2 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia of 21 March 2018 for carrying out educational activities in penitentiary institutions through general education programmes. Moreover, Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 1398-A/2 of 19 October 2018 approved the curricula (alternative/author/educational program) of the special general education institution elaborated by the organisation for persons serving punishment in the form of imprisonment and/or detained persons. Accordingly, persons not having received general education exercise their rights to education by having the opportunity to study the subjects of Armenian Language, Russian Language, Foreign Language, Informatics, Armenian Literature, Geography, World History, Armenian History, History of the Armenian Church, Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physical Education, and Sociology.

Currently, part 7 of Article 18 of the Law "On education" enshrines that in the Republic of Armenia, twelve-year secondary education is compulsory until the student attains the age of 19, unless that right has been exercised earlier. However, numerous cases are recorded among the convicts when the convict is, for instance, 35 years old but he or she has second-grade or fifth-grade education.

Currently, the number of convicts and detained persons in penitentiary institutions having incomplete secondary education is around 300.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to remove the age limit of general education as a result of the legislative amendment and ensure the right to education of persons serving punishment in the form of imprisonment and/or detained persons in penitentiary institutions enshrined in Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the Action presented, it is expected to ensure the exercise of the right to education of persons serving punishment in the form of imprisonment and/or detained persons enshrined in the Constitution, international treaties and legislation of the Republic of Armenia, which will contribute to the re-socialisation of the latter, thus reducing the risk of recidivism.

15.8. IMPLEMENTING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES BASED ON DEMAND AT PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

For the purpose of reducing the risks of recidivism, ensuring the successful social re-integration of persons deprived of liberty, importance is attached to education, including provision of demand-based, targeted opportunities aimed at acquiring professional skills in all penitentiary institutions of the Republic of Armenia. As it has already been mentioned, for the purpose of guaranteeing the effective exercise of the right to education of persons deprived of liberty, it is necessary to conduct a needs assessment, as a result whereof it will be possible to elaborate and gradually introduce new vocational education programmes in all penitentiary institutions.

The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 entitled “Amendments in the penitentiary and probation sector” of Section 5 entitled “Law and justice” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It should be noted that, currently, the "Centre for the implementation of legal education and rehabilitation programmes" State Non-Commercial Organisation conducts instruction of both education courses and skills, and aesthetic education, which is aimed at the re-socialisation of persons serving punishment in penitentiary institutions and those preparing to get released from punishment, as well as of probation beneficiaries. Besides, the methodology and toolkit for assessing the vocational education need of persons deprived of liberty have already been elaborated, the application whereof will enable to elaborate new and effective vocational education programmes based on demand. Within this context, it should be noted that it is necessary to elaborate and gradually introduce all the mentioned targeted vocational programmes in all penitentiary institutions, by ensuring equal opportunities for persons deprived of liberty, as well as guaranteeing more effectiveness of the mentioned actions aimed at re-socialisation. Naturally, the process implies programme introduction on a monetary basis, taking into account that the Government also has a plan for the optimisation of penitentiary institutions and the construction of a new penitentiary institution.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to assess the needs of persons deprived of liberty from the perspective of guaranteeing vocational education, current demand, elaborate — based thereon — and introduce targeted vocational education programmes in at least 5 penitentiary institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the implementation of the Action, it is expected to ensure the implementation of vocational education programmes based on demand for persons deprived of liberty in at least 5 penitentiary institutions, in accordance with the revised set, thus contributing to the successful social re-integration of the mentioned persons.

15.9. ADOPTING THE DRAFT DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA "ON APPROVING THE 2023-2026 STRATEGY FOR THE PENITENTIARY AND PROBATION SECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

Taking as a basis the necessity for ensuring the continuation of reforms in the penitentiary and probation sector, as well as attaching importance to the necessity for transitioning from traditional ideology of imprisonment to the ideology of re-socialisation and restorative justice, it is necessary to elaborate and adopt the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2023-2026 Strategy for the Penitentiary and Probation Sector of the Republic of Armenia and the 2023-2026 Action Plan for the implementation thereof", whereby the most important issues of the sector will be targeted.

The Action stems from Chapter 5.6 entitled "Amendments in the penitentiary and probation sector" of Section 5 entitled "Law and justice" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the implementation of the actions pre-determined upon the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2019-2023 Strategy for the Penitentiary and Probation Sector of the Republic of Armenia, the 2019-2023 Action Plan for the implementation thereof, financial assessment of the Plan and the procedure for formation of the council co-ordinating the implementation of the Plan and for organising the activity thereof" continues, but the term of the above-mentioned Strategy will expire in 2023; hence, a necessity for further systemic legislative regulation of sector reforms arises. Along with what was mentioned, it should be noted that considering that the given strategy was adopted yet in 2019, taking into account the developments in the sector thereafter and based on the time limits of the Government programmes for 2021-2026, it is appropriate to take the implementation period for the new strategy of the penitentiary and probation sector the period of 2023-2026, which will also allow to ensure the full implementation of the actions mentioned in the Government Programme in the given sector and their harmonious effect.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to elaborate and adopt the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2023-2026 Strategy for the Penitentiary and Probation Sector of the Republic of Armenia and the 2023-2026 Action Plan for the implementation thereof" based on the needs assessment of the penitentiary and probation sector and ensuring the continuity of the implementation of reforms in the directions pre-determined by the current strategy. According thereto, amendments will also be made to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1717-L of 28

	<p>November 2019 "On approving the 2019-2023 Strategy for the Penitentiary and Probation Sector of the Republic of Armenia, the 2019-2023 Action Plan for the implementation thereof, financial assessment of the Plan and the procedure for formation of the council co-ordinating the implementation of the Plan and for organising the activities thereof", by avoiding the overlapping of deadlines envisaged for the implementation of actions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the Draft will ensure the sustainable implementation of the strategic directions, as well as visible and consistent development of the sector.</p>
16.	<p>16. IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION</p> <p>16.1. ELABORATING THE DRAFT DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA "ON APPROVING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF", PUTTING IT INTO CIRCULATION AND SUBMITTING IT TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS PRESCRIBED</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The fight against corruption is one of the primary and most important directions of the activity of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. This is also evidenced by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1332-N of 3 October 2019 "On approving the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the 2019-2022 Action Plan for the implementation thereof" (hereinafter also referred to as "the Anti-Corruption Strategy"). Due to the efforts made, the Government achieved significant success within the scope of the Anti-Corruption Strategy during 2019-2021, particularly, the foundation of the institutional system of the anti-corruption fight has been laid, mechanisms aimed at confiscation of property of illicit origin have been introduced, and other sectoral reforms have been implemented. The implementation of this Action stems from the necessity for ensuring the implementation of point 5.5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", as well as defining a policy for a co-ordinated and joint fight against corruption in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>In this regard, it is necessary to highlight that the achievements existing in the anti-corruption sector are also significantly conditioned by the circumstance that the reforms have been implemented in a methodical and systematic way. In other words, it was possible to ensure the systematic reforms only as a result of the strategic approach. Taking into account the fact that it is necessary to ensure the continuity of the reforms implemented in the anti-corruption sector, including in the directions defined within the scope of the current Anti-Corruption Strategy, the Anti-Corruption Strategy and the 2023-2026 Action Plan for the implementation thereof will be elaborated with the participation of the general public and interested bodies.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Decision No 1332-N "On approving the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2019-2022 Action Plan for the implementation thereof" was adopted on 3 October 2019. Taking into account the fact that the Anti-Corruption Strategy will expire in 2022, a necessity to elaborate a new 2023-2026 Anti-Corruption Strategy arises.</p>

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account the above-stated, it is necessary to elaborate the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2023-2026 Action Plan for the implementation thereof.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of public discussions, risk assessment, sectoral research, co-operation with the international partners, the new Anti-Corruption Strategy will be adopted and the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2023-2026 Action Plan for the Implementation thereof" will be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for discussion, upon the adoption whereof the main anti-corruption directions for 2023-2026 with clear actions will be outlined.

The document will define the main strategic directions of the State in the fight against corruption by including the identification and settlement of corruption issues, and the steps aimed at fulfilling international obligations. The Strategy will reflect the main directions of the fight against corruption included in the Programme of the Government.

16.2. ELABORATING DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ON APPROVING THE SECTORAL ACTION PLAN BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF CORRUPTION RISKS AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH INTERESTED BODIES, INTERNATIONAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY, AND SUBMITTING THEM TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The implementation of this Action stems from the provisions of point 5.5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", which envisages the implementation of a comprehensive assessment of corruption risks at the state and local levels and elaboration of action plans based thereon. Within the scope of the Action, activities aimed at identification of sectoral corruption risks and reduction thereof, introduction and continuous improvement of electronic democracy tools will be carried out for the purpose of overcoming administrative corruption.

Accordingly, comprehensive assessment of corruption risks will be conducted in various sectors of the state administration system, based on the approved conceptual benchmarks, and relevant actions aimed at neutralisation of the mentioned risks will be elaborated based thereon.

In parallel, for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the programmes implemented and, accordingly, having an evidence-based anti-corruption policy, mechanisms for permanent monitoring of the anti-corruption programmes will be developed.

It should be mentioned that the implementation of this Action stems from the logic of ensuring the continuity of the Anti-Corruption Strategy, by taking into account the fact that, in line with the Anti-Corruption Strategy, steps are already being undertaken aimed at studying and identifying the corruption risks in bodies constituting the public administration system, including local self-governing bodies.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, relevant activities are carried out for the purpose of identifying corruption risks in bodies providing public service, as well as those of the state power, but it is necessary to implement reforms in this sector within the scope of the Action Plan clearly defined.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account the foregoing, it is necessary to elaborate the concept paper for assessment, analysis and management of corruption risks, as well as the draft Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the sector-specific action plan based on the assessment of corruption risks" and submit them to the Government for discussion. The Drafts should precisely define the actions which will become a benchmark for overcoming corruption risks in various sectors by taking into account the peculiarities of each sector, as well as it should outline the methodology for the assessment of corruption risks and directions of the management thereof, by using the existing international practice along with the anti-corruption strategy.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the implementation of this Action, it is expected to separate the most risky corruption sectors, and, accordingly, define a clear action plan aimed at overcoming the various manifestations of corruption in the mentioned sectors.

16.3. ELABORATING THE DRAFT LAW "ON MAKING AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THE LAW 'ON PUBLIC SERVICE'", PUTTING IT INTO CIRCULATION AND SUBMITTING IT TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS PRESCRIBED

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

Elaborating the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On public service'" and thereby providing for regulations aimed at the conflict of interests and clarification of the incompatibility requirements is conditioned by the necessity for improving the legislative regulations in effect. The Draft will provide for regulations excluding the interconnection between trust managers and the founders of trust management who are officials within the scope of transferring the share of the person holding a public position and of a public servant in the statutory capital of a commercial organisation to trust management, certain requirements will be prescribed for the trust manager, etc. Besides, the Draft will provide for additional norms on conflict of interests by providing for clear restrictions for public servants to engage in entrepreneurial activities by enshrining realistic, effective and transparent mechanisms. This Action is, in general, aimed at defining such regulations in the sector of public service, which will reduce possible contradictions between the public and private interests of a person holding a public position and of a public servant, which, in its turn, will contribute to the improvement of the sector of public service.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the regulations on the conflict of interests and incompatibility of persons holding public positions and those of public servants are prescribed by Law HO 206-N of 23 March 2018 "On public service". Pursuant to the regulations of Article 31 of this Law, all natural and legal persons, in essence,

may become trust managers, without any restriction.

It is conditioned by the fact that the regulations on companies providing investment services do not extend to entities carrying out the trust management of only the share of a public servant or a high-ranking official in the statutory capital of a commercial organisation under the Law "On the securities market".

In addition to the above-stated, it should be noted that although the legal acts defining regulations on the conflict of interests contain norms preventing the conflict of interests, regulating the situations of conflict of interests, their formulations are not always clear and identical, which hinders the uniform perception and further regulation of the conflict of interests and hinders the application of the unified mechanisms for liabilities in the law-enforcement practice.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of clarifying the regulations on the incompatibility requirements of a person holding a public position and a public servant, conflict of interests, it is envisaged to elaborate the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On public service'" and submit it to the Office of the Prime Minister.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Upon the implementation of this Action, it is expected to clarify the incompatibility requirements by taking into account the international practice, regulations on conflict of interests taking into account that the uniform perception of these legal relations in the law-enforcement practice are ensured and the gaps in the current legal regulations are filled in.

16.4. ELABORATING THE DRAFT LAWS "ON MAKING AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THE LAW 'ON PUBLIC SERVICE'" AND "ON MAKING AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THE LAW 'ON COMMISSION FOR THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION'", PUTTING THEM INTO CIRCULATION AND SUBMITTING THEM TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS PRESCRIBED

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

Practical application of the integrity system in the public service is one of the important conditions in the sector of the fight against corruption. The integrity system, among other elements, also includes the prohibition on accepting gifts related to the performance of official (service) duties. Despite the fact that the current Law "On public service" prescribed back in 2018 that the procedure for registration and transfer of gifts related to the implementation of official duties of persons holding a public position and public servants shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the relevant decision has not been approved yet.

Adoption of the draft Laws provided for by this point is targeted at improving the institute of gifts, establishing a body responsible for observing the prohibition on accepting gifts, providing for necessary regulations in relation to the procedure for registration and transfer of gifts.

The Action stems from point 5.5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the institute of gifts related to the exercise of official duties of persons holding public positions and of public servants is regulated by Article 29 of Law No 206-N of 23 March 2018 "On public service". In accordance with this Article, where the value of a gift accepted by persons holding a public position and public servants and provided for by law exceeds AMD 60 000, it shall be deemed to be the property of the state or community and shall be registered as such.

Persons holding public positions and public servants shall be obliged to transfer it to the state or the community as prescribed by the Government. At the same time, Second Interim Compliance Report of the Fourth [Evaluation] Round of the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO) adopted on 22 September 2021 recorded that the regulations on the prohibition on accepting gifts still need improvement. The Report also emphasised the necessity for adopting a procedure for registering and transferring gifts. It should also be noted that the legislation in effect does not define a body carrying out control over observing the prohibition on accepting gifts. Moreover, taking into account the fact that the body carrying out control over observance of other elements of the integrity system is the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, which also verifies and analyses the declarations of officials and family members of the latter, it is more expedient to also reserve the observance of regulations on gifts to the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, at the same time providing the latter with the competence to define the procedure for registration and transfer of gifts. Within the scope of this legislative regulation, it is necessary to consider the definition of such regulations on accepting, registering gifts, which will comply with the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia in the anti-corruption sector, ensure the unity of registration of gifts and controllability of transfer of gifts and define the necessary procedures for operation of the Register of Gifts.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account the above-stated, it is necessary to elaborate the draft Laws "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On public service'" and "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On Commission for the Prevention of Corruption'" and submit them to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for discussion, whereby the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption will be vested with the rights to carry out control over the observance of the prohibition on accepting gifts, prescribing the procedure for registration and transfer of gifts, and the provisions related to accepting gifts will be reviewed in line with the requirements of GRECO.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the implementation of the Action, the prohibition on accepting gifts will be defined more comprehensively, by excluding possible misunderstandings and the possibilities to circumvent them, the establishment of the unified electronic system for registration of gifts, transparency of registration will be ensured and the controllability of the sector will be significantly improved.

16.5. ELABORATING THE DRAFT LAW "ON MAKING AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THE LAW 'ON THE WHISTLE-BLOWING SYSTEM", PUTTING IT INTO CIRCULATION AND SUBMITTING IT TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS PRESCRIBED

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

Adopting the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On the whistle-blowing system'" and related draft laws is conditioned by the necessity for improving the current whistle-blowing system, as well as implementing the international obligations undertaken. The following key solutions will be recommended upon the Drafts:

to envisage regulations pursuant where to the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall also have access to the Unified Electronic Platform for Whistle-Blowing. At the same time, it will be envisaged that the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption shall, within the scope of its competence, ensure record-registration, consideration of each case of whistle-blowing entered into the Unified Electronic Platform, undertake, within the scope of its competences, measures and, where necessary, conduct proceedings for administrative offence or administrative proceedings.

Besides, taking into account the fact that state bodies implement activities for internal and external whistle-blowing and the results thereof are not summarised, it is recommended to establish a competent body that will summarise and publish on the platform the reports received from state bodies. The report may be posted in sections, according to the source of receipt — internal or external.

The Action stems from point 5.5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1332-N of 3 October 2019 "On approving the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2019-2022 Action Plan for the implementation thereof" (hereinafter referred to as "the Strategy") prescribed an action aimed at carrying out continuous activities for the purpose of improving and developing the whistle-blowing system. Currently, it appears from the study of the Law "On the whistle-blowing system" (hereinafter referred to as "the Law") that only reports containing elements of crime are processed according to the Law. Whereas, pursuant to the Law, the purpose of whistle-blowing is to also provide for the possibility to file a report on conflict of interests, violations of rules of ethics, incompatibility requirements and other restrictions and declaration, which may contain elements of administrative offence prescribed by the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Armenia or grounds for institution of administrative proceedings prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On prevention of corruption". It turns out that a person may, via internal or external whistle-blowing or the Platform, whistle-blow to the competent body also cases containing elements of administrative offence or grounds for institution of proceedings, whereas the possibility of processing the indicated cases of whistle-blowing is not provided for by the Law. At the same time, within the scope of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan 5th Round Monitoring: Pilot Overview and Procedures, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (hereinafter referred to as "OECD") Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Monitoring Report of the Republic of Armenia also touched upon the above-stated issues and recommended to define relevant regulations.

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account the above-stated, for the purpose of ensuring the improvement of the whistle-blowing system and international obligations, it is envisaged to elaborate the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On the whistle-blowing system'" and related draft laws and submit them to the Office of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to improve the current whistle-blowing system, by ensuring regulations and mechanisms in line with the objective of the Law in effect and the subject-matter of the regulation. Conditioned by the above-mentioned, an opportunity will be created to ensure an actually operating whistle-blowing system which will ensure not only proper procedures for examination of reports on crimes, but also examination of reports on violations of requirements for persons holding public positions and public servants set forth by the legislation and application of relevant enforcement measures.</p>
17.	<p>17. ENSURING A JUDICIAL SYSTEM FREE FROM CORRUPTION AND PATRONAGE</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Back in 2013, the issue of the existence of large-scale corruption in the judicial system was put on the agenda of the public authority by the Ad-Hoc Report of the Human Rights Defender on the Right to Fair Trial. In the further years, various local and international organisations continuously emphasised this issue and the necessity to fight thereagainst. According to the data of the Global Corruption Barometer 2017, 41% of the surveyed thinks that the majority of Armenian judges or all of them take a bribe, and 17% thinks that only some judges take a bribe. Indeed, the considerable progress that the judicial system has made in the recent years in both overcoming corruption and enhancing professionalism cannot be disregarded. However, one of the causes of the non-confidence in the judicial system voiced by the general public, especially during the last year, are corruption risks. Overcoming corruption in the judicial system is one of the absolute priorities of this Strategy. The implementation of this Action stems from points 5.3 and 5.5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Introducing an effective system for evaluation of the integrity of judges, including with regard to the property status and verification of lawfulness of property of judges is one of the absolute priorities of this Strategy, as well as of the Programme of the Government. Moreover, the principal points of the mechanism for checking the integrity are as follows: (a) integrity assessment must not be conducted through an ad hoc toolkit and must not have a temporary nature. Instead, the process will have an ongoing nature, and judges will permanently undergo such assessment within the scope of disciplinary proceedings for each alleged violation of the rule of conduct; (b) not a new ad hoc body will be established to assess the integrity of judges, but the Supreme Judicial Council — the body endowed with the constitutional mission of ensuring the independence of the judicial system — will be responsible for settling this issue.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Solutions recommended within the scope of the implementation of this Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborating legislative grounds complying with the international standards for subjecting judges to disciplinary liability, necessary for assessing the integrity of judges and members of the Supreme Judicial Council. • Introducing mechanisms necessary for conducting the assessment of integrity of judges and members of the Supreme Judicial Council. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, the assessment of integrity of judges will be subjected to complete legislative regulation. Besides, it is envisaged to implement at least 10 actions for 100 judges within the scope of the capacity-building and increasing the awareness of judges.</p>
<p>18.</p>	<p>18. INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NOTARIAL SYSTEM</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for this Action is conditioned by the increase in the effectiveness of the notarial system, which is targeted at settling a number of procedural issues of the institute of signing a writ of execution and improving it, as well as improving the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability and terminating the powers thereof, effectively protecting the interests of both notaries and parties, reducing judicial disputes and providing the opportunity to use additional evidence in case of judicial disputes. For increasing the effectiveness of the notarial system, it is necessary to review the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability and terminating the powers thereof, as the grounds and procedures prescribed by law are not clear.</p> <p>The Action stems from point 6.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Application of the institute of writ of execution may be an effective measure for reducing the workload of civil courts, taking into account the fact that the overload of civil cases in the courts of first instance is first of all conditioned by cases on a claim for levying an amount. Nevertheless, it is not still possible to widely apply the institute of writ of execution in practice conditioned by the fact that the toolkit necessary for its application is not elaborated and adopted.</p> <p>For increasing the effectiveness of the notarial system, it is necessary to review the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability and terminating the powers thereof, as the grounds and procedures prescribed by law are not clear.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>Solutions recommended within the scope of this Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making amendments to the Law “On notary” and other legislative acts by increasing the effectiveness of the institute of the writ of execution. • Making amendments to the Law “On notary” by improving the procedure for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability. • Making amendments to the Law “On notary” by ensuring the effective protection of the interests of both notaries and parties, decreasing the probability of judicial disputes and providing the opportunity to use additional evidence in case of judicial disputes. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is targeted at introducing the procedures necessary for applying the institute of writ of execution, improving the current procedures, as well as improving the procedures for subjecting a notary to disciplinary liability and terminating the powers thereof. Within the scope of increasing the effectiveness of notarial activities, it is expected to ensure the effective protection of the interests of both notaries and parties, decrease the probability of judicial disputes and provide the opportunity to use additional evidence in case of judicial disputes.</p>
19.	<p>19. IMPLEMENTING REFORMS IN THE COMPULSORY ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM, TARGETED AT INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING THROUGH DIGITALISATION AND LAUNCHING ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Existence of a sustainable compulsory enforcement system is one of the most important components of the effectiveness of justice. It is noteworthy that since the adoption of the Law "On compulsory enforcement of judicial acts", the legal system of the Republic of Armenia has undergone several institutional changes. Despite the fact that several essential changes were made by Law HO-126-N of 23 July 2019 "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On compulsory enforcement of judicial acts'", the legislation of the field of compulsory enforcement needs a systemic revision nevertheless. The implementation of this Action stems from point 5.3 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Since 2009, the system of electronic proceedings has been introduced in the Compulsory Enforcement Service (hereinafter referred to as “the Service”) and is being modernised and replenished with new modules year by year, which provides the opportunity to conduct electronic proceedings, make notifications, electronic requests on enforcement proceedings via the system, impose attachments, dismiss and complete enforcement proceedings, make transfers, organise the functions of document circulation and maintenance of the archive. Since 2009, new modules have been constantly modernised and combined with the computer software packages /modules/, in particular, new, more up-to-date and high-speed protocol of the Road Police, a new software package for the integration of the electronic system of the Civil Status Acts Registration Agency, new up-to-date modules of all banks operating in the Republic of Armenia, as well as programmes of integration /combination/ with the current systems of archive modules have been introduced. Requests on the enforcement proceedings instituted are made, attachments are imposed, decisions of compulsory enforcement officers are generated, electronic payments are made and other activities related to enforcement proceedings are carried out via the mentioned systems. During the</p>

last two years, the official website of the Service and the system of compulsory electronic auction have also been modernised by the efforts of the Service.

In 2021, "Automatic Levy", "Debtor's Cabinet" and "Claimant's Cabinet" electronic computer modules will be introduced in the Service, the terms of reference whereof have been designed, and programming activities are currently ongoing. In addition to the above-mentioned, a tender is currently announced by the results of the work performed with the World Bank on carrying out activities for creating a software costing around AMD 100 million within the scope of the Third Public Sector Modernisation Project. The announced tender is in process. It will be impossible to install the software developed based on the relevant terms of reference on the server currently operated by the Service, which, in its turn, will cause grave problems from the perspective of testing the product developed by the organisation having won the tender and carrying out activities for putting it into operation. Taking into account that it is envisaged to carry out the activities for developing and introducing the system — according to the terms of the tender — within 7 months, the acquisition and preparation of relevant servers is of fatal importance from the perspective of the successful completion of the programme, formulation of the transfer and acceptance of results as prescribed and exclusion of defaults "Substantiated by the fault of the Client" by the contractor organisation.

It should be added that in parallel with the introduction of the above-mentioned software packages, the quantity of enforcement proceedings has radically grown, in particular, the quantity of the enforcement proceedings instituted during the first five months of 2021 comprised more than 55% of the total enforcement proceedings processed in 2020, which significantly overloaded the load of the servers ensuring the service of the electronic systems operating in the Service. Despite the fact that the above-mentioned computer software contributed to the increase in the quality of enforcement proceedings and the effective use of working time by a compulsory officer, the above-mentioned facts cause an urgent necessity to modernise and change the server systems of the Service. Two server nodes were operating in the Service — the first and the main node — in Yerevan, in the administrative building of the Service, the second node — in Gyumri, in the territory of Shirak Marz Department of the Service, as a reserve server node. The above-mentioned server nodes were last modernised in 2015-2016. In 2020, due to the issues having arisen in the server node of the Service, the reserve server node was moved to the administrative building of the Service, and currently there are no reserve server nodes. Failure of any constituent chain of the main server node may, any time, result in an irreversible loss of the database stored and archived on servers. Besides, the considerable part of the computers operated by the Service is very outdated and based on technical features and power is replenished with Windows XP Operating System which has been removed from service and support since 2014, or with Windows 7 Operating System which, in its turn, has been removed from service and support since 14 January 2020. As a result of all this, complications arise both with regard to installing antivirus systems and providing security, and developing and introducing modern programmes with the use of modern information technologies.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Solutions recommended within the scope of this Action are as follows:

- ensure the digitisation of enforcement proceedings and introduction of the electronic system;
- modernise the whole server node of the Service, create necessary infrastructures;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● create 2 data centres; ● replace and modernise the dividing commutators; ● acquire uninterrupted power supplies, reserve servers, for archiving; ● ensure reserve servers; ● train the service personnel. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Within the scope of the implementation of this Action, comprehensive legal regulations on enforcement proceedings will be defined, the differentiated manifestations of enforcement expenses will be enshrined, the grounds for suspending enforcement proceedings will be reviewed, the means of application of electronic toolkits in enforcement proceedings will be expanded and the time limits of enforcement proceedings will be reduced. As a result of a number of legislative amendments, it is expected to eliminate the issues existing in the sector of the Compulsory Enforcement Service, overcome the gaps and uncertainties existing in the Law "On the Compulsory Enforcement Service", increase the effectiveness of the activity of the Compulsory Enforcement Service, and expand the scope of social guarantees for the compulsory enforcement officer.</p>
20.	<p>20. REFORMING THE LEGISLATION ON THE MASS MEDIA</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Reforming the legislation on the mass media is conditioned by the need to bring the legislation in effect into compliance with the current trends in the sector development. The objective of the Action is to make the activity of the mass media more effective, ensure the accuracy, objectivity and comprehensiveness of information provided to the society by the latter, increase the social responsibility of journalists, minimise publication of information that is defamation or insult, support the formation of professional ethics and professional integrity of journalists.</p> <p>The implementation of this Action stems from point 5.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current Law "On mass media" was adopted in 2003, after which the content of the Law has not been significantly changed. After the adoption of the Law, several changes have taken place in the public life conditioned by the information and communication development, formation and wide dissemination of digital media, and growing importance of the role and application of information technologies in the sector of mass media. As a result, the Law in effect does not contain regulations in line with the existing reality and does not ensure the comprehensive regulation of the sector. At the same time, the objective coverage of events by the mass media, the ensuring of the exercise and protection of the right of persons to receive reliable and comprehensive information, the right to private life and dignity require formation of legal grounds for defining the rules of journalism ethics. The</p>

	<p>practical implementation of the rules of journalism ethics also requires availability of relevant control tools.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to carry out a study of the international practice on the sector of mass media, hold discussions with representatives of the sector, determine the conceptual directions of the reforms and elaborate a new legislation on the mass media based thereon, aimed at the comprehensive regulation of the sector, definition of legal grounds for the rules of journalistic ethics and introduction of toolkits for the control over them.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, the comprehensive regulation of the sector of mass media will be ensured, in compliance with the current development trends, legal grounds for defining the rules of journalism ethics, as well as control tools over the observance of the rules of journalistic ethics will be prescribed.</p>
21.	<p>21. DEVELOPING AND DEEPENING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Bearing in mind the lack of international agreements related to the spheres of extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal and civil cases and the transfer of convicts between a number of States and the Republic of Armenia, or, in case of existence thereof, the incomplete regulation of legal relations, necessity has arisen to conclude bilateral agreements with individual States regulating the sphere, which will enable to ensure the most effective cooperation between the two States in the prevention of crime, which will contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the cooperation of the parties in the criminal and civil spheres, the implementation of procedural actions between the two States, and the strengthening of cooperation in the field of mutual recognition and enforcement of court decisions.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice is a central body within the framework of both bilateral and multilateral international agreements with more than 70 countries.</p> <p>Naturally, effective cooperation with multilateral international agreements is carried out with many States, but in practice there is a need to establish a narrower or wider scope of cooperation with a particular State in the specific field of mutual legal assistance.</p> <p>As for the possibility to implement it in the absence of an international agreement, in the field of mutual legal assistance, despite the mutual consent of the States, it is very important that the rights and obligations are fixed in the form of an international agreement between the two States.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is planned to sign bilateral cooperation agreements with a number of States, such as, for instance, bilateral agreements regulating the sphere of extradition with the Republic of Armenia and Argentina, the Republic of India, agreements regulating the sphere of mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal matters with Argentina, India, Egypt, and in the sphere of the transfer of convicts — with Iraq, India. In the context of what was mentioned,</p>

	<p>necessity will arise to initiate the necessary amendments and supplements, arising from those international agreements, to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The regulation of the mentioned sphere within the framework of international agreements will provide an opportunity to implement the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms between the Republic of Armenia and foreign States more effectively.</p>
22.	<p>22. IMPROVING THE FIELD OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>In the Republic of Armenia, legal assistance in criminal proceedings is currently carried out in accordance with the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia and the provisions laid down in Chapters 54, 54.1, 54.2, 54.3 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 1 July 1998. The new Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia does not fairly regulate the relations in question, by considering them as a subject of regulation of separate law.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Despite the existence of the above-mentioned chapters in the existing Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, regulations mentioned therein are often incomplete, contradicting to each other, cause many problems when applied in practice, and in separate cases, no regulations are envisaged at all. It follows from the foregoing that the field of legal assistance in criminal proceedings needs not only improvement, but also proper legislative regulation at the appropriate times.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Adoption of the Law "On legal assistance in criminal proceedings" is of practical significance for the comprehensive regulation of the field, as the Draft Law proposes comprehensive regulation of international cooperation in criminal proceedings between the States. In particular, the legal relations in relation to the procedures for extradition, transfer of convicts in order to exercise of supervision over persons conditionally sentenced or conditional early released from serving the punishment in the territory of a foreign State or the Republic of Armenia, as well as those pertaining to the recognition (conversion) of criminal judgments of courts of foreign States and their legal consequences have become the subject of a separate regulation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the adoption of the Law "On legal assistance in criminal proceedings", it will be possible to regulate relations arising in the field of mutual legal assistance with domestic legislation more completely, to create complete and effective mechanisms for the implementation of mutual legal assistance with foreign States, by implementing wide-ranging cooperation in the field.</p>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
NN	RATIONALE
1-18	<p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action stems from the requirement of implementing the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (Article 13), sub-sections "1.1 Foreign policy", "1.2 Nagorno-Karabakh issue" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On diplomatic service", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On consular service", the bilateral and multilateral international treaties and international commitments of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the actions</p> <p>The objectives of the implementation of the Actions are protecting the state interests of the Republic of Armenia and reinforcing the sovereignty, , regulating relations with neighbours, establishing safe environment around the Republic of Armenia and promoting sustainable peace in the region, deblocking of regional infrastructures as part of the “Crossroads of Peace” project developed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, enhancing economic resilience of the Republic of Armenia through the diversification of co-operation, addressing the needs of people forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, ensuring intensive and proactive involvement of Armenia in international and regional processes, deepening relations with partner states, developing co-operation in bilateral and multilateral formats for the benefit of protecting the interests of Armenia and ensuring favourable conditions for development.</p> <p>The objectives of the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia for the period 2021-2026 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protecting the state interests of the Republic of Armenia, reinforcing territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and sovereignty thereof,; - creating an atmosphere targeted at establishment of peace in the region, promoting regional peace, deblock of regional communications, actualising the “Crossroads of Peace” project and ensuring an external environment targeted at sustainable development; - enhancing economic resilience of the Republic of Armenia through the diversification of co-operation; - addressing the needs of people forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh; - joining the efforts of the international community aimed at preventing mass atrocities and genocides; - promoting allied relations and strategic partnership stipulated on a legal and contractual basis between the Republic of Armenia and Russian Federation. Mutually beneficial co-operation within CSTO, EAEU and other multilateral frameworks; - developing and deepening the Armenia-USA friendly partnership, expanding the mutual co-operation in democratic reforms, the rule of law, fight against corruption, intensifying the dialogue in economic and political sectors; - Raising the level of privileged relations with the Republic of France to that of a strategic partnership; - expanding bilateral and multilateral co-operation with the European countries and the European Union — fully implementing the European

	<p>Union-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), establishing and implementing the new partnership agenda;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring the intensive involvement and proactive policy of the Republic of Armenia in the Council of Europe; - strengthening and developing friendly relations with neighbouring countries; - strengthening friendly and mutually beneficial ties with China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Southeast Asian countries and Australia, establishing new co-operative relations therewith, developing co-operation with other Asian and Pacific countries, including in multilateral formats of co-operation; - expanding the co-operation with Middle East and African countries in the sectors of mutual interest, including ensuring the security of our compatriots residing in conflict zones; - developing co-operation with the states of the American continent; - active works within the scope of the UN by attaching importance to the role of the institution both in terms of overcoming regional issues and formulating global challenges and organising activities to overcome them; - active participation in the processes taking place within the scope of the OSCE to raise the awareness on the Armenian side's stance regarding regional safety and peace issues; - international co-operation of the sector of security, including continuity of the political dialogue with NATO, consistent implementation of bilateral agreements and programmes; - protecting the rights and interests of citizens and legal persons of Armenia in foreign states; - public diplomacy for the purpose of reinforcing the positive image of Armenia in the international arena, popularising the cultural and historical heritage of Armenia, and counteracting the anti-Armenian campaign;
19.	<p>Promoting cooperation with international trade and economic and financial institutions, fostering economic diplomacy, as well as summarising results and, upon necessity, elaborating a decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Strategy for Economic Diplomacy".</p> <p>1.1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Part "New approaches in diplomacy" of the Subsection "1.1 Foreign Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The extensive and co-ordinated use of mechanisms of economic diplomacy is aimed at consolidation of efforts over the economic development, creation of favourable conditions for implementation of programmes and reforms, effective use of available knowledge, capacities and resources.</p>

	<p>Currently, the sector is regulated by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 924-A of 3 August 2017, which defines the economic criteria for targeting countries for the development of the economic component of the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia, the criteria for evaluating the performance of the economic activities of diplomatic missions of the Republic of Armenia in foreign States, the initial list of target countries selected on the basis of the economic criteria for targeting countries, which, however, does not recommend a comprehensive solution for all existing issues.</p> <p>1.3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of increasing the investment attractiveness of Armenia, promoting investments and export, it is recommended to compare the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - properly raising awareness by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the reforms implemented in the economy and the economic attractiveness of the Republic of Armenia in foreign states and relevant international sectoral institutions, to which the classification and mapping of the scope of economic interests of the Republic of Armenia will contribute; - regularly providing the Government of the Republic of Armenia with information on the areas of interest for the economic development of the Country in foreign states; ; - ensuring co-ordination of activities with potential investors, as well as with foreign business and academic circles, that are of interest also from the point of view of transfer of modern technologies; - uniting famous businessmen and professional figures of the Armenian Diaspora in the efforts made in the mentioned direction, and integrating their potential in the mentioned programmes, including with relevant guidance of representatives of commercial representations operating in foreign states and national institutions for promoting investments. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of adoption of strategic approaches with respect to the economic diplomacy, it is expected to position Armenia as an attractive direction for investments, raise Armenia's ranking on the international investment map, raise awareness of investment opportunities of Armenia, introduce competitive advantages of Armenia, including by indicating the opportunities provided by the geographical location of Armenia to large markets.</p>
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Ministry of High-Tech Industry	
NN	ENTITIES SUBMITTING RATIONALE
1.	<p>1. "Improving technology education in the high-tech sector"</p> <p><u>1.1. Reviewing educational programmes in the informative and communication technological direction at higher education institutions, bringing them into compliance with the modern requirements, strategy for and needs of the sector, and elaborating new educational</u></p>

	<p><u>programmes when needed at higher education institutions, including based on international co-operation</u></p> <p><u>1.2. Promoting high-tech education at Gyumri Branch of the National Polytechnic University of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives for the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 4 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>The Action is necessary for improvement of technology education in the high-tech sector.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The high-tech sector is changing at a great pace, particularly after the 4th industrial revolution started. Training of qualified specialists having received education in line with the current requirements is a necessary precondition for Armenian companies to participate in this new technological revolution. Although Armenian higher educational institutions have various educational programmes in technology, they are not always in compliance with the requirements of the modern economies and science, which directly impacts the competitiveness of the technological system of Armenia.</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, necessity arises to review and improve the process of supplying human capital in Armenia. In particular, it is necessary to study the current educational programmes, their compliance with the requirements of educational programmes existing in global markets and, in general, with global requirements, then undertake relevant steps to improve them, contribute to the introduction of new educational programmes. In addition, it is necessary also to support — through trainings — the supply of specialists in compliance with the needs of the local market.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The above-mentioned programmes will improve the technological education. The quality of the labour market and labour force will be raised, which will essentially improve the competitiveness of Armenian companies in the world and will enhance the attractiveness of Armenia as a technological hub of the region.</p>
2.	<p>2. “Continuously increasing the opportunities for engaging necessary investments in high-tech (start-ups) and engaging financial tools for ensuring further development of the high-tech companies and their access to the world market, including through state support programmes”</p>

2.1 Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Strategy for the Development of the High-Tech Sector” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

2.2 Developing a strategy for the high-tech business environment and submitting it to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia for approval

2.3 “Promoting the introduction and application of support mechanisms for the establishment, development and competitiveness of high-tech enterprises”

2.4. Establishing a National Venture Fund

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 5 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”. At the same time, the necessity for the Action derives from the Loan Agreement concluded between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the World Bank on 6 August 2014 and the Project “Trade Promotion and Quality Infrastructure” and the amendments made thereto in January 2020.

The objective of the Action is continuously increasing — through state support programmes and other mechanisms — the opportunities for engaging necessary investments in high-tech companies and engaging financial tools for ensuring further development of high-tech companies and their access to the world markets.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The high-tech sector of the Republic of Armenia has displayed stable growth rates in the past years, whereas taking into consideration the nature of global development of the sector, a number of infrastructural and institutional factors have been identified in Armenia, which may slow the rates of growth of the sector. Such factors include development of the educational system, research capacities.

Taking into consideration the international trends, not least important is the development of national capacities in the cybersecurity, which is currently not co-ordinated comprehensively yet, and need for development of relevant sectoral policies and capacities is observed.

In 2019-2020, the survey conducted by the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia revealed lack of funding opportunities for the embryonic and early period among innovative start-ups.

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Taking into consideration the existing issues, the Project “Trade Promotion and Quality Infrastructure” has been developed and has been further amended, including also the subpoint on establishing National Venture Fund.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Project, it is expected in 2022-2026 to develop the scientific and research capacities of the Republic of Armenia, significantly improve the technology education system and to ensure the necessary venture funding resources and accessibility of the best international business practice to the start-ups operating in the Republic of Armenia.</p>
3.	<p>3. “Implementing actions for promoting immigration of the technological potential”</p> <p><u>3.1. Establishing attractive conditions and promoting mechanisms for immigration of sought-after high-tech specialists</u></p> <p><u>3.2 “NerUzh” component of the Programme “Armenian Virtual Bridge”</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 5 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is implementing various actions aimed at promoting the immigration of Diaspora Armenian young people having the specialties sought after in the sector of high-tech industry of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>High-tech sectors are global markets, where the labour market is also global. Many developed and developing countries elaborate and implement special migration policies to engage global talents, and in case of many countries they become a key tool for development of technological sectors. Armenia actually falls behind the race for global talents. Armenian professionals dominate in the Armenian labour market, and the ways of engaging new talents (for example, foreign students in Armenian higher educational institutions, exchange programmes implemented by branches of global companies, etc.) are few.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities</p>

	<p>subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Actions for engaging technological talents are necessary to develop and implement in order to solve the above-mentioned issues and provide new ideas and make innovations in the Armenian technological system. In particular, it is necessary, on the one hand, conduct campaigns of awareness-raising on and engaging in the Armenian high-tech sector, and, on the other hand, to support the switch-over by providing relevant information.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the above-mentioned actions, new qualified professionals will join the Armenian technological system, and they will share their knowledge and skills with the locals.</p> <p>3.1 The Action "State support to commercial organisations and individual entrepreneurs operating in the field of information technologies" is being implemented.</p> <p>3.2 Works with the 3 organisations recognized as winners as a result of the five-day event held within the framework of the "NerUzh" component of the "Technological Entrepreneurial Ecosystem" Programme continue.</p>
4.	<p>4. “Ensuring creation of a new value and application of technological solutions in the high-tech sector and all sectors of the economy by providing funding to newly established companies within the scope of grant programmes”</p> <p><u>4.1. Implementing a grant programme under the title “From Idea to Business”</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives for the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 7 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is supporting through funding the promotion of products of the high-tech sector in the stage from idea to maturity and enhancement of opportunities for application thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The important factors of development of the economy include ensuring productivity, which is not that high in Armenia, particularly in certain sectors of the economy. Innovative technological ideas and their commercialisation play an important role in promoting the productivity. Ensuring the former necessitates</p>

	<p>continuous generation of ideas and sufficient financial resources for their implementation, which are not that much available in the Armenia economy.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>The Grant Programme “From Idea to Business” is implemented to create a favourable environment for solving the above-mentioned issues and promoting innovative ideas.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The above-mentioned Programme will ensure the creation of a new value in the high-tech sectors, as well as solution to the issues existing in different branches of the economy, which will secure increase in the total factor productivity of the economy.</p> <p>The grant programme under the title “From Idea to Business” shall be implemented through 2 components. In the grant competition “For products in the stage of idea” 18 organisations were declared as winners, each out of which was provided a grant of up to AMD 5 million. Actions financed by the grant programme are in progress.</p> <p>Secondly, “For products in the stage of entering into the market” the grant competition is still in progress.</p>
5.	<p>5. “Implementing educational and acceleration programmes for the purpose of ensuring inflow of knowledge and skills from technological, educational and scientific-research centres of the world, promoting development and engagement of investments in the technology sector”</p> <p><u>5.1. Implementing the Programme “Armenian Virtual Bridge”</u></p> <p><u>5.2. Developing relations, establishing co-operation between Armenian and foreign accelerators/technological centres</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives for the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 8 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is developing relations and establishing co-operation between Armenian and foreign technological centres through educational and acceleration programmes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p>

	<p>The important conditions for innovation and technological development include providing permanent source of new knowledge and skills. Armenia, having blockaded economy, homogeneous population and labour market, has serious restrictions for joining the global knowledge network and sharing the knowledge and experience, which significantly slows down the technological progress of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is recommended to contribute to the filling the existing gaps by implementing the Programme “Armenian Virtual Bridge”, as well as establishing co-operation between different technological centres of the world.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the above-mentioned Programme, transfer of knowledge from one of technological centres of the world to the Armenian technological system will be ensured. Individuals will introduce and spread the advanced entrepreneurial and technical knowledge also in Armenia, contributing to the generation and promotion of new ideas.</p> <p>5.1 3 out of 13 Armenian entrepreneurs recognised as winners within the framework of the programme left for the USA in May and participated in the course held at Draper University. Another person left in October. The departure of the other participants was delayed due to subjective factors.</p> <p>5.2 Currently, ongoing negotiations are held with American acceleration organisations to establish cooperation.</p>
6.	<p>6. “Improving capacities of technological centres, technoparks, accelerators and incubators existing in the Republic of Armenia, as well as establishing new centres in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, including on the basis of international co-operation, for the purpose of proportional regional development”</p> <p><u>6.1. Implementing the "Engineering City" Programme</u></p> <p><u>6.2. Establishing entrepreneurial infrastructures</u></p> <p><u>6.3. Elaborating a programme for the purpose of establishing newly-founded technological centres, technoparks, accelerators and incubators, clarifying funding mechanisms</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives for the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 9 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023</p>

	<p>State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is ensuring proportional territorial development through establishment of technological centres in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and enhancement of capacities of the existing centres.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The existence of relevant infrastructure and mature ecosystem is of essential significance for the development of innovation and high-tech sectors. Even through Armenia has technological centres, technoparks, accelerators and incubators, they are quantitatively and qualitatively insufficient for the public accessibility and the rates of technological progress.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues it is recommended to develop and implement programmes aimed at strengthening the capacities in the technological and entrepreneurial ecosystems, in particular through expansion, improvement of activities of existing technological centres, technoparks, accelerators and incubators, and establishment of new centres and creation of new programmes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the above-mentioned actions, Armenian start-ups will have wider access to the consultation, acceleration services and other services necessary for testing of ideas and growth. The qualitative development of activities of the centres providing those services will also be ensured. A favourable environment for the promotion of innovative entrepreneurship will be created.</p>
7.	<p>7. “Creating and developing special engineering and industrial zones based on the example of the “Engineering City”</p> <p><u>7.1. Establishing technological and industrial centres</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 10 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p>

	<p>Taking into consideration the security needs of Armenia, as well as existing possibilities, necessity arises to carry out activities focused on developing a separate engineering sector. For engineering companies and research groups it is necessary to create and ensure an appropriate environment where new engineering ideas will generate and be commercialised.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues it is recommended to create an engineering and high-tech cluster (“Engineering City”) in Armenia and ensure its development. As a result of implementation of the Programme, it is envisaged to create innovative ecosystem, where companies of the engineering and high-tech sector will develop and implement — by use of modern infrastructures — innovative ideas for the purpose of offering high-tech solutions in the local and international markets. The Programme will be implemented under the Loan Project of the WB “Trade Promotion and Quality Infrastructure”.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the above-mentioned Programme, Armenia will be placed on the map of advanced countries of the engineering and high-tech sector, which will attract companies of the sector from different countries around the world. As a result of activities of companies new products and solutions will be created, which will contribute to the needs of Armenia and the world.</p>
8.	<p>8. Ensuring and promoting the presence of Armenian high-tech sector (companies) around the world, including at prestigious international exhibitions, events</p> <p>8.1. Elaborating and implementing marketing programmes</p> <p>8.2. Organisation works for international and bilateral business forums, challenges jointly with Armenian companies</p> <p>8.3. Organisation works for ensuring the participation of the Armenian high-tech, jointly with the sector companies, in prestigious national and international exhibitions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives for the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 3.8 of Subsection 3 of Section 2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem of the high-tech industry, digitisation and market development” of Table 2 of Annex 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1171-N of 10 July 2020 “On approving the 2022-2024 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p>

The support by the Ministry for the organisation/coordination of exhibitions and the participation of Armenian companies in prestigious sectoral exhibitions and business forums is primarily due to the significant lack of recognition of Armenian brands and companies raised by companies, which hinders promotion in international markets. The international experience, as well as the experience of the Ministry during 2019-2022 in this field, allows us to claim that exhibitions are most beneficial to companies for:

- studying international markets and making the offered products and services more competitive
- finding new international partners (including suppliers)
- easy access to new markets
- increasing sales and developing companies

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Start-up organisations carrying out activities and companies operating in the high-tech sector often introduce their products, services and innovative ideas in the international markets with great difficulty. As a result, having great potential, Armenian companies have limited opportunities to acquire international partners, learn about trends of the sector and offer demanded and competitive products and services in foreign markets.

Events are regularly organised in the high-tech sector, whereas the Armenian organisations not always have an opportunity to participate in international forums, seminars and exhibitions.

Comprehensive statistics on products and services of interest in international markets are not available. Armenian companies, having the opportunity to conduct direct negotiations with many companies and potential consumers/users during the mentioned international events, are able to get an idea of the priorities and features in the given country/region, acquire partners, increase sales, by developing the sector.

One of the primary objectives for the development of the high-tech sector in the Republic of Armenia is the expansion of markets of sufficient volume. Taking into consideration the fact that the volume of the internal market of the Republic of Armenia is not sufficient to ensure the necessary growth of the high-tech sector, it is also necessary — for the purpose of achieving considerable success — to develop the capacities of Armenian high-tech companies to be introduced and operate on external markets, ensuring through systemic approaches stable promotion of Armenian products and services on the global market.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

Upon studying the international practice and the market, it is necessary to develop a programme to effectively present Armenian technological products in international markets. With the help of the developed programme, the promotion of Armenian sectoral companies in international markets will be implemented.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

	<p>The result of the implementation of the programmes is the programme for promotion of Armenian high-tech products and services in the international markets. Consistent implementation of the programme will also contribute to the creation and realisation of new products and services in the sector, and to the growth of turnover in the sector. As a result of the actions, the international recognition of Armenian technological products and services will increase and more favourable conditions will be created for Armenian companies to enter international markets, as well as to expand existing cooperation. As a result of the implementation of the program, Armenian companies may participate in exhibitions, seminars, bilateral business forums and other events, having the opportunity to present their products, services and in foreign markets in the best possible way.</p>
9.	<p>9. “Promoting effective co-operation of technological companies and HEIs for the progressive development of the high-tech sector by preparing new specialists and providing other sector specialists with the opportunity to re-specialise”</p> <p><u>9.1. Teaching of up to 4000 beneficiaries per year in marzes and in the city of Yerevan</u></p> <p><u>9.2. Creating proper teaching conditions for up to 4000 beneficiaries per year within the scope of the action for organising courses in Marzes and teaching thereof</u></p> <p><u>9.3 Creating proper teaching conditions for up to 2000 beneficiaries per year within the scope of the action for organising courses in Marzes and in the city of Yerevan and teaching thereof</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 2 of the Subsection "Digitisation" of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the objective of which is preparing new specialists and providing other sector specialists with the opportunity to re-specialise in the high-tech sector with the aim of progressive development of the high-tech sector through promotion of effective co-operation between technological companies and HEIs.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia has many HEIs conducting courses in the high-tech sector, as well as personnel training centres, which organise professional courses, provide business support and consultation services. At the same time, the private sector also conducts internal qualification courses.</p> <p>Along with the continuous development of high technologies, now we have lack of specialists with high qualifications in the high-tech sector, for the purpose of which training courses complying with the requirements of the market must be conducted.</p> <p>The regular activities of the staff of the centre are ensured within the framework of the action “Organising courses in marzes”. The centre implements programmes through engaged specialists, in particular for the purpose of activities for founding newly-established organisations, drawing up documents</p>

on business planning of the activities, establishing business connections, providing consultation services to organisation.

In 2020, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia implemented the programme for the first time, moreover with 2 components — conducting a course "Programme Fundamentals", conducting targeted distance learning. Within the framework of the course "Programming Fundamentals", of 3814 applicants (of which, Yerevan — 1883 applicants, marzes and the Republic of Artsakh — 1931 applicants), the course was completed by 2009 graduates (of which, Yerevan — 990 graduates, marzes and the Republic of Artsakh — 1019 graduates). And within the framework of the targeted distance learning, of 11546 applicants (of which, Yerevan — 5592 applicants, marzes and the Republic of Artsakh — 5954 applicants), the course was completed by 3215 graduates (of which, Yerevan — 1749 graduates, marzes and the Republic of Artsakh — 1466 graduates).

In 2020, entrance examinations were held for participation in the courses in 18 specialities, as a result of which the State funded the education of students on the following scale: a score less than 50% — Yerevan — 10%, marzes — 30%, a score 51%-75% — Yerevan — 40%, marzes — 60%, and a score higher than 76% — Yerevan — 80%, marzes — 90%.

In general, within the framework of operating and establishment of new specialised technological training centres, it is expected that professional courses will be organised, the specialists of private companies will share the experience and knowledge with the beneficiaries, business support and consultancy services will be provided, for the performance of which consultancy and financial support is needed.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

In the high-tech sector it is necessary to develop and implement programmes for preparation and training of specialists with involvement of international education organisations and organisations already operating in the Republic of Armenia. It is necessary to develop and implement such qualification programmes that will be aimed also at meeting the demand for specific specialists by the private sector.

It is necessary to continue contributing to the supply of highly-qualified specialists at the existing marz-based technological centres (of Gyumri and Vanadzor) and establishment of new technological centres in marzes, as well as promote the involvement of HEIs in the process of conducting marz-based courses as a component of the ecosystem.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the programme, it is expected to increase the number of specialists having the professional skills complying with the requirements of the market and contribute to their involvement in the labour market. The main objective of implementation of the programme is preparing qualified specialists and a new generation for the sector by educating, providing an opportunity to acquire knowledge, and strictly controlling the quality of the programme under implementation.

As a result of implementation of the programme, the technological centres will create in marzes of the Republic of Armenia new opportunities for talented young people, for implementing innovative ideas, establishing new companies and creating jobs, thus contributing, in general, to the stable economic development of marzes and reduction of social and economic disproportionality between Yerevan and marzes.

10.	<p style="text-align: center;">10. “Implementing programmes for capacity-building of companies in the sector”</p> <p><u>10.1. Organising and conducting courses, seminars, workshops aimed at capacity enhancement for technological companies</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with of indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives for the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 13 of the Subsection “High Technologies” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the requirements of the Subtitle “1. Programme for development of the ecosystem and the market of the high-tech industry” of point 6 of part 2 of the Annex to Decision No 1212-N of 10 July 2020 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2021-2023 State Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The human capital has considerable significance in the technological progress. Although Armenian technological companies have a certain level of necessary capacities, however, their further promotion may contribute to the acceleration of the growth rates of the sector. In this respect, the enhancement of business capacities among the companies specifically has major significance.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issue it is recommended to implement programmes for enhancing the capacities among the employees of technological companies, which may be in the form of courses, seminars and workshops, depending on the target groups and objectives.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to ensure the development of the most important resource necessary for the technological progress in the country, <i>i.e.</i> the human capital.</p>
11.	<p>11. Improving the legislative framework and defining simplified procedures for importing dual-use products, as well as promoting mechanisms for the establishment of joint ventures</p> <p><u>11.1. Improving the legislative framework regulating the military industry sector and defining simplified procedures</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indicating of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p>

	<p>The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, create favourable conditions for the organisations of the military-industrial complex.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Although in recent years the legislative framework regulating the military industry sector has considerably improved, it is necessary to undertake co-ordinated and targeted steps to give solution to the issues regularly raised by the organisations of the military-industrial complex.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned to the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is recommended to simplify the procedure for circulation of dual-use products by organisations of the military-industrial complex, the procurement process, introduce rating scale for organisations of the military-industrial complex, on the one hand facilitating the activities of the organisations, and on the other hand, regulating the state-business relations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will result in simplified procedures for import of dual-use products, as well as simplified legal regulations for establishing joint ventures in the field of military industry.</p>
12.	<p>12. Increasing productivity, ensuring integrity and effectiveness of the production chain</p> <p><u>12.1. Engaging investments</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by points 6, 7 and 13 of part 2 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”. It is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, provide necessary financial resources to the organisations of the military-industrial complex.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The volumes of internal and external investment in the field of the military industry of Armenia, as well as the opportunities provided by the available investments are not sufficient to ensure development in line with the challenges faced by the country. The issues of the sector are conditioned by both institutional and technological factors, factors of availability of specialists and technical equipment.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p>

It is recommended to use mechanisms for financial and economic promotion, contribute to the engagement of specialists, ensure import and use of modern technologies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

A noticeable result will be the continuous growth of the volume of investments in the sector of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, *i.e.* 3-5% in average per annum, thus giving a new momentum to the development of the domestic military industry and making it one of the drives for industrial and technological development of the Republic of Armenia.

12.2. Introducing modern technologies

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by point 2 of part 2 of Article 3, as well as point 2 of part 2 and point 8 of part 2 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”: The implementation of the Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, to make the activities of organisations of the military-industrial complex more effective through advanced technological solutions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The development of the global military industry is conditioned by the regular introduction and use of new technological solutions. Moreover, the technological solutions developed for the civil sector that are applicable also in the military industry sector hold primary place in this process. Our problems mainly result from insufficient development of co-ordinated conceptual approaches for technological development in the field of military industry, insufficient funding, insufficient attractiveness of the sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

In case of systemic approach and planning, it is necessary to ensure development and introduction of 1-2 modern technological solutions per annum in the field of military industry. Moreover, those technologies may be applied both within the framework of the programme implemented by a separate company and joint programmes implemented by several companies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the mentioned Action, it is expected to have introduction of at least 1-2 successful technologies in the military industry sector each year, thus establishing the basis for development, introduction and export of technologies to nurture the domestic potential.

12.3. Increasing the qualification of the personnel of the military-industrial complex

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by point 1 of part 3 of Article 3, as well as points 13-14 of part 2 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”. The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, recruit highly-qualified specialists by organisations of the military-industrial complex.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Difficulties in the industry of Armenia, lack of funding, non-compliance of the scientific and educational basis with relevant standards, as well as financial unattractiveness for young specialists result in considerable shortage of the professional potential in the military-industrial sector. As a result, the companies of the MIC face the impossibility of engaging specialists having secondary vocational knowledge and skills, which considerably reduces the opportunities of their development.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is recommended to develop and launch mechanisms for conducting training courses and courses for raising the qualification of the personnel of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia together with leading institutions of Armenia and foreign ones, as well as companies of partner states.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is expected to have a package of legal documents on conducting training courses and courses for raising the qualification of the personnel of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia together with leading institutions of the Republic of Armenia and foreign ones, as well as companies of partner states.

12.4. Introducing mechanisms for economic promotion

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by point 5 of part 2 of Article 4, as well as Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”. The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, improve the effectiveness of activities and enhance the competitiveness of organisations of the MIC by use of financial and economic tools.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

At the stage of establishment of the military industry of Armenia it is necessary to widely use financial and economic tools, tools for promoting export provided for by law to provide such indicators for the development of companies of the sector that will enable their competitiveness both at the internal and external markets.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is recommended to elaborate the tools for promoting the MIC companies, which may include improving tax and administrative procedures, providing targeted benefits, simplifying customs procedures, designated educational programmes, as well as adopting a policy for the promotion of the export.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The implementation of the Action will result in development and implementation of financial and economic tools, tools for promoting the export, educational and social programmes.

12.5. Introducing mechanisms aimed at increasing volumes of export of products of the manufacturing industry

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by point 4 of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”. The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, develop the export capacities, improve the effectiveness of activities and enhance the competitiveness thereof.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The volumes of export of the products of the military industry from Armenia are currently very small, which does not allow to fully identify the potential of development of companies of the military industry and increase the level of their representation and enhance their competitiveness at international markets.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

Promotion of companies of the MIC, ensuring of the accessibility of latest technological solutions to them, use of tools for promoting the foreign trade will make it possible to fully identify the potential of the domestic military industry. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia place an important role in the promotion of the product of the domestic military industry at external markets, and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia — in the matters of creation of the internal environment.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is envisaged to increase the volumes of the export of the product of the military industry to USD 120 million by 2025.</p> <p><u>12.6. Establishing a Testing and Evaluation Subdivision within the MIC of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the necessity to increase the capacities of the Military-Industrial Complex of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Currently, the Military-Industrial Complex of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia does not have sufficient capacities for testing and evaluating the product developed and services provided by the companies of the military industry, which slows down the process of delivering the developed product or services to the end-user.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Establishing the subdivision will provide an opportunity to minimise the imperfection of requirements of experiments conducted for the purpose of the final acceptance of scientific research and experimental design (SRED) works based on the standards to be elaborated for state experiments of the SREDW. Initial testing of products by the subdivision within the MIC and bringing them into compliance with the standards of the client will provide the Ministry of Defence with the opportunity to save time and resources until bringing the products to the final condition.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is envisaged that by 2023 the Military-Industrial Complex of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia will have a subdivision with relevant capacities and functions.</p>
13.	<p>13. Internal capacity-building for production of strategic goods</p> <p><u>13.1. Clarifying the demand for strategic goods</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p>

	<p>The objective of the Action is building capacities of organisations of the MIC in the direction necessary to satisfy the demand of the primary users of the Republic of Armenia for strategic products — the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, the Police of the Republic of Armenia and the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, as well as creating opportunities for the import of the other part.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The demand for strategic products is not fully assessed, which complicates the targeted planning of the development of the military industry and import of strategic products.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is recommended to conduct comprehensive inter-agency assessment of the demand for strategic products, clarifying both the capabilities and the target indicators of the domestic product and the volumes of their import and resources envisaged for them.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>A tangible result will be precise indicators of the domestic demand for strategic products, and planning documents for the military industry and the import deriving therefrom.</p> <p>13.2. Defining main directions for developing production capacities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is defining the main directions for developing production capacities of companies of the military industry of the Republic of Armenia, based on both the data specified under Action 3.1, and assessment of global trends for industrial and technological development.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The main directions for developing production capacities in the field of military industry of the Republic of Armenia are not defined in the co-ordinated manner.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is recommended to specify — based on the comprehensive inter-agency assessment — the capabilities and target indicators of the domestic product, global development trends, and define — based thereon — the main directions for developing the production capacities in our country.</p>
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2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, companies of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia will have the prospective indicators of development, based on which it will be possible to plan the development process.

13.3. Engaging investments

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, provide necessary financial resources to the organisations of the military-industrial complex.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The volumes of internal and external investments in the field of the military industry of Armenia, as well as the opportunities provided by the available investments are not sufficient to ensure development in line with the challenges faced by the country. The issues of the sector are conditioned by both institutional and technological factors, factors of availability of specialists and technical equipment.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is recommended to use mechanisms for financial and economic promotion, contribute to the engagement of specialists, ensure import and use of modern technologies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

A tangible result will be creation of favourable investment environment, thus giving a new momentum to the development of the domestic military industry and making it one of the drives for industrial and technological development of the Republic of Armenia.

13.4. Introducing modern technologies

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, to make the activities of organisations of the military-industrial complex more effective through advanced technological solutions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The development of the global military industry is conditioned by the regular introduction and use of new technological solutions. Moreover, the technological solutions developed for the civil sector that are applicable also in the military industry sector hold primary place in this process. Our problems mainly result from insufficient development of co-ordinated conceptual approaches for technological development in the field of military industry, insufficient funding, insufficient attractiveness of the sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

In case of systemic approach and planning, it is necessary to ensure development and introduction of 1-2 modern technological solutions per annum in the field of military industry. Moreover, those technologies may be applied both within the framework of the programme implemented by a separate company and joint programmes implemented by several companies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the mentioned Action, it is expected to have introduction of at least 1-2 successful technologies in the military industry sector each year, thus establishing the basis for development, introduction and export of technologies to nurture the domestic potential.

13.5. Increasing the qualification of the personnel of the military-industrial complex

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The Action is necessary to replenish the organisations of the military-industrial complex with highly-qualified specialists.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Difficulties in the industry of Armenia, lack of funding, non-compliance of the scientific and educational basis with the relevant standards, as well as financial unattractiveness for young specialists result in considerable shortage of the professional potential in the military-industrial sector. As a result, the companies of the MIC face the impossibility of engaging specialists having secondary vocational knowledge and skills, which considerably reduces the opportunities of their development.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is recommended to develop and launch mechanisms for conducting training courses and courses for raising the qualification of the personnel of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia together with leading institutions of Armenia and foreign ones, as well as companies of partner states.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to have a package of legal documents on conducting training courses and courses for raising the qualification of the personnel of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia together with leading institutions of the Republic of Armenia and foreign ones, as well as companies of partner states.</p> <p><u>13.6. Introducing mechanisms for economic promotion</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, improve the effectiveness of activities and enhance the competitiveness of organisations of the MIC by use of financial and economic tools.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>At the stage of establishment of the military industry of Armenia it is necessary to widely use financial and economic tools, tools for promoting export provided for law to provide such indicators for the development of companies of the sector that will enable their competitiveness both at the internal and external markets.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate and actively apply the tools for promoting the MIC companies, which may include introducing tax benefits, simplifying customs procedures, designated educational programmes, as well as adopting a policy for the promotion of the export.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will result in development and implementation of financial and economic tools, tools for promoting the export, educational and social programmes.</p>
14.	<p>14. Sharp increase in production capacities</p> <p><u>14.1. Introducing modern technologies</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, to make the activities of organisations</p>

of the military-industrial complex more effective through advanced technological solutions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The development of the global military industry is conditioned by the regular introduction and use of new technological solutions. Moreover, the technological solutions developed for the civil sector that are applicable also in the military industry sector hold primary place in this process. Our problems mainly result from insufficient development of co-ordinated conceptual approaches for technological development in the field of military industry, insufficient funding, insufficient attractiveness of the sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

In case of systemic approach and planning, it is necessary to ensure development and introduction of 1-2 modern technological solutions per annum in the field of military industry. Moreover, those technologies may be applied both within the framework of the programme implemented by a separate company and joint programmes implemented by several companies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of the mentioned Action, it is expected to have introduction of at least 1-2 successful technologies in the military industry sector each year, thus establishing the basis for development, introduction and export of technologies to nurture the domestic potential.

14.2. Increasing the qualification of the personnel of the military-industrial complex

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, recruit highly-qualified specialists by organisations of the military-industrial complex.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Difficulties in the industry of Armenia, lack of funding, non-compliance of the scientific and educational basis with the relevant standards, as well as financial unattractiveness for young specialists result in considerable shortage of the professional potential in the military-industrial sector. As a result, the companies of the MIC face the impossibility of engaging specialists having secondary vocational knowledge and skills, which considerably reduces the opportunities of their development.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

	<p>It is recommended to develop and launch mechanisms for conducting training courses and courses for raising the qualification of the personnel of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia together with leading institutions of Armenia and foreign ones, as well as companies of partner states.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to have a package of legal documents on conducting training courses and courses for raising the qualification of the personnel of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia together with leading institutions of the Republic of Armenia and foreign ones, as well as companies of partner states.</p> <p>14.3. <u>Introducing mechanisms for economic promotion</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The Action is necessary to promote the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, improve the effectiveness of activities and enhance the competitiveness of organisations of the MIC by use of financial and economic tools.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>At the stage of establishment of the military industry of Armenia it is necessary to widely use financial and economic tool, tools for promoting export provided for law to provide such indicators for the development of companies of the sector that will enable their competitiveness both at the internal and external markets.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate the tools for promoting the MIC companies, which may include introducing tax benefits, simplifying customs procedures, designated educational programmes, as well as adopting a policy for the promotion of the export.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will result in development and implementation of financial and economic tools, tools for promoting the export, educational and social programmes.</p>
15.	<p>15. Developing military-industrial research</p> <p>15.1. <u>Engaging scientific-education institutions of the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal</p>

acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The objective of the Action is fully engaging scientific-education institutions of the Republic of Armenia, bringing their research and given lectures into compliance with the requirements of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia and providing modern technological solutions, recruiting by companies of the MIC high quality specialists.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Currently, the scientific-education institutions of the Republic of Armenia are not engaged in the process of development of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia in a co-ordinated manner.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

In case of a systemic approach and planning it is necessary to ensure the participation of leading scientific-education institutions of the Republic of Armenia in the process of developing solutions for issues faced by companies of the MIC, preparing specialists having high professional qualification, raising the qualification of the specialists available, as well as studying the best practice of foreign countries and introducing it in the domestic industry.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a preliminary result of the mentioned Action, it is expected to have programmes for co-operation with the scientific-education institutions of the Republic of Armenia, seeking to review and specify them each year in compliance with the current requirements.

15.2. Developing co-operation with leading foreign scientific-research institutions and military-industrial/technological companies

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The Action is necessary to promote the development of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia, study and adopt the practice of leading foreign scientific-research institutions and military-industrial/technological companies to further introduce it in the MIC of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The co-operation with leading foreign scientific-research institutions and military-industrial/technological companies in the field of military industry is segmental and limited. Taking into consideration the availability of the relevant knowledge, willingness to co-operate with leading foreign institutions and interest in engaging foreign partners, Armenia does not use its potential in full.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

	<p>It is recommended to develop and implement a programme for co-operation between Armenian and foreign leading institutions and the Military-Industrial Committee of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, companies of the military-industrial complex, as well as scientific-research and scientific-education institutions, the performance of which will essentially enhance both the opportunities of development of the military industry of the Republic of Armenia and improve the rating of Armenia in the given sector due to the developments by the Armenian side.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to have programmes for co-operation with foreign scientific-research institutions and military-industrial/technological companies.</p>
16.	<p style="text-align: center;">16. Promoting investment programmes in the military industry</p> <p><u>16.1.Improving the institutional framework</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is creating a favourable legal, political, economic, educational and social environment for internal and external investments.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Even though the regulations of the sector of the military industry have essentially improved, providing an opportunity to engage new sources of funding for many companies, however, the dynamic development of the sector requires engaging new targeted investments, which, in addition to funding, may ensure also import of related technologies.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is necessary to contribute to the development and performance of investment programmes through improvement of the legal and political and economic field. The primary issues include also raising the effectiveness of co-ordination of the MIC by way of improving the structure of state administration bodies and increasing the level of interoperability.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to launch 2-3 investment programmes annually.</p> <p><u>16.2.Developing infrastructures</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal</p>

acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The objective of the Action is ensuring the development of infrastructures necessary for the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

In recent years, a significant amount of work has been done both at the level of state and non-governmental initiatives to establish and develop infrastructures necessary for the military industry. However, the majority of capacities of the MIC are centred in Yerevan due to disproportional territorial development of Armenia. Meanwhile, the insufficient level of the infrastructure of transportation, communication, production and education hinders the entry of companies of the MIC.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

The development of infrastructure of transportation, communication, production, education in Armenia, in particular in marzes, will provide an opportunity to promote the activities of companies of the military industry by engaging both local and invited specialists. This will, in its turn, contribute to both the development of marzes and the decentralisation of capacities of the military-industrial complex and raising of the level of their security.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to launch 2-3 investment programmes per annum.

16.3. Forming quality labour force

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The objective of the Action is ensuring the availability of specialists required for the development of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Since Armenia has gained independence, the observed industrial recessions have led also to the decline in the demand for engineering and technical professions, as a result of which companies of the MIC currently face the issue of lack of high-quality specialists.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is necessary to restore the system of educational institutions providing secondary vocational education, linking them with the demand put forward by the industrial companies of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, it is necessary to deepen the relations of educational institutions with the MIC,

	<p>which will, on the one hand, ensure the inflow of trained high-quality specialists to the companies of the MIC, and on the other hand, will provide the companies of the MIC with innovative and advanced solutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to launch 2-3 investment programmes per annum.</p>
17.	<p>17. Expanding and developing the scientific-research base, creating, importing and mastering new technologies</p> <p><u>17.1. Founding sectoral scientific-research laboratories</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is establishing sectoral scientific-education institution laboratories.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Currently, the companies of the MIC face the issue of conducting fine-grained tests of their product in different conditions, which become complicated for the reason of absence of relevant laboratories.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is necessary to initiate the establishment and operation of specialised sectoral scientific-technical laboratories in Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to have 1-2 sectoral laboratories at the end of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p><u>17.2. Establishing scientific production and technological clusters</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is ensuring the development and implementation of joint projects by the companies of the military-industrial complex of the Republic of Armenia, joint use of certain scientific production capacities and the increase of effectiveness of the general activities.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p>

	<p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex” provides for presence of interrelated groups of complementary organisations ensuring competitiveness, performing state orders for military needs. Formation of military-industrial clusters will essentially increase the effectiveness of joint projects of companies of the MIC.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Giving preference for funding and granting benefits to the joint projects (programmes) of companies of the MIC will promote the formation of military-industrial clusters, thus increasing the overall effectiveness.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to have scientific production and technological clusters.</p> <p><u>17.3. Expanding international co-operation</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is expanding the scope of international co-operation of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia, contributing to the study and adoption of new technologies, raising the qualification of specialists, as well as developing the potential of export by companies of the MIC.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Currently, the international co-operation is limited to several traditional areas.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is necessary to expand the scope of international co-operation, actively work with both traditional and new partners, increase the international co-operation potential of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to test and introduce 1-2 new technological solutions per annum, as well as to establish the legal and contractual basis for the international co-operation.</p>
18.	<p>18. Developing and introducing national standards — in line with international and/or regional standards — that prescribe requirements for the design and production of military devices and apparatus, military equipment and electronic appliances</p>

	<p><u>18.1. Developing national standards</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is establishing a system of regulatory-technical documents and national standards regulating the activities of companies of the military-industrial complex in Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The developments and products of companies of the MIC are necessary to bring into compliance with the internationally accepted standards, which is possible through development and adoption of national standards.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>It is necessary to develop and adopt at least 1-2 national regulatory-technical documents each year, in compliance with the programmes agreed in advance.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected that at the end of the five-year Programmes of the Government of the Republic of Armenia 1-2 national standards are developed and adopted each year.</p>
19.	<p>19. Expanding purchase volumes of local products to meet the needs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p><u>19.1. Clarifying the needs of the Armed Forces, other troops and general military security system</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The objective of the Action is having the true picture of needs of the security system of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Clarifying the needs of the Armed Forces, other troops and the general military security system is necessary to plan the capacities, to specify the areas of development of the MIC of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities</p>

subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is necessary to assess and specify — at the inter-agency level — the needs and wants of the Armed Forces and the general security system of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The implementation of the Action will result in generation of a register for needs of the Armed Forces, other troops and military security system of the Republic of Armenia.

19.2. Developing and legally regulating a tax policy significantly different for products produced by domestic MIC and those with similar characteristics, imported from abroad

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by Article 3, point 2 of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”. The objective of the Action is ensuring the development of the domestic military-industrial complex, primary satisfaction of the needs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, reduction of the import dependence to the extent possible, economic and technological development of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Although currently major steps are taken to develop the domestic military industry, the insufficient competitiveness of companies of the MIC, gaps in financial and economic tools provide no opportunity to essentially reduce the dependence of Armenia on import of ammunition and military equipment.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

It is necessary to promote the prospective areas of the domestic military industry by use of the relevant financial and economic and administrative tools, considering the relative privileges of the domestic military-industrial complex and juxtaposing with defence and security needs of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to ensure, to the extent possible, increase of volumes of products and services supplied by the MIC of the Republic of Armenia to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia.

19.3. Creating, importing and introducing necessary technologies

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the

	<p>Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The legal grounds for the Action are prescribed by part 2 of Article 3, point 8 of part 2 of Article 4 and point 2 of part 4 of Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On military-industrial complex”. The Action is necessary to find – through technological development – solutions adequate to the needs of the Armed Forces and the security system of the Republic of Armenia, to make the activities of organisations of the military-industrial complex more effective through advanced technological solutions.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Modern warfare requires that the development of the global military industry is brought into compliance with the regular adoption of new technological solutions. Moreover, in that process importance is attached to technological solutions of not only military, but also civil nature, which will further be applied in the military industry. Our problems mainly result from the insufficient development of co-ordinated conceptual approaches for the technological development in the military industry, insufficient funding, improper study of the foreign practice.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>In case of systemic approach and planning it is necessary to ensure development and introduction of 1-2 modern technological solutions per annum in the field of the military industry.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action it is expected to create, import, test and introduce 1-2 new technological solutions per annum.</p>
20.	<p>20. Introducing an up-to-date system of identification and recognition of jurisdictions</p> <p>20. Identifying, verifying identity and establishing a new infrastructure for e-signature</p> <p>20.1. Establishing in collaboration with private sector a new system for identifying, certifying the identity and electronic signature.</p> <p>20.2 Operating the national identification platform “EsEm”.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular requirement of paragraph 1 of the Subsection “Digitisation” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p>

	<p>The necessity for the Action derives also from the requirements of points 13 and 18 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 183-L of 11 February 2021 “On approving the Digitisation Strategy of Armenia, Action Plan and outcome indicators of the Strategy”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>A large segment of the population, i.e. 82% has not used electronic management tools, as it has had no need to conduct transactions with the state sector. The main reason for 2.3% of the population not to use them is lack of skills. During electronic transactions only 3% of the population uses the identification card. Establishing and verifying the identity plays a key role in the electronic management and electronic services, which provide an opportunity to ensure safe and reliable access to on-line functions. Currently, there is a need to establish a system for fully digitised document circulation, where documents will be fully electronic, by using fully digital, structured document (JSON, XML) instead of fully electronic formats, i.e. DOC, PDF (or equivalent), which will easily allow to receive information on the content of the document.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>The main objective is studying the practice of already introduced identification cards, considering their disadvantages and privileges. It is necessary to define and apply effective technological solutions for safe establishment and verification of identify. There is a need to make technological capacities of the electronic signature more accessible, whether it is based on smart cards, telephone cards, other security devices or biometric characteristics. Creating a digital document also implies establishing a document database, later also an infrastructure for their archiving. This will allow establishing different document circulation systems based on the digital document database, thus ensuring the interchangeability and competitiveness of the systems.</p> <p>The action co-implementing body is considered to be “EKENG” CJSC. “EKENG” CJSC has own identification system introduced and about 12 years of experience in this field. This will serve as a party providing software and technical and professional assistance in the stages of development and operation of the system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Establishing one common identification infrastructure and upgrading the electronic signature.</p> <p>Establishing a unified infrastructure solution.</p> <p>Electronic signature platform will be operated, the citizens will not directly pay for digital identification services, at least 1 million citizens are subscribers of the national identification system.</p>
21.	<p>21. “Introducing a system of management and development of information and cybersecurity, increasing literacy”</p> <p>21.1 Approval of key legislation defining the open data policy</p> <p>21.2 Establishing an internationally accredited (CERT/CSIRT) national cyber incident response team</p>

21.3 Ensuring cybersecurity preparedness of critical infrastructures

21.4 Creating a national framework to enhance cybersecurity capabilities

28. “Increasing digital literacy of the population of the Republic of Armenia and implementing programmes targeted at the growth of volumes of application of digital tools”

1. Implementing digital education programmes

2. Access to digital services for persons with disabilities

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The necessity for the Action derives from the requirements of points 16 and 19 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 183-L of 11 February 2021 “On approving the Digitisation Strategy of Armenia, Action Plan and outcome indicators of the Strategy”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

Studies prove that there is a lack of specialists “with digital skills” in private and public sectors. The current situation is mainly conditioned by the imbalance between the present educational programmes and demand in the labour market. The lack of specialists in the public sector is conditioned also by low salary. The real digitisation of Armenia is only possible through development of fundamental digital skills among all age and social groups, which is interrelated to the modernisation of the public sector and the economy. The systems for provision of state services are distinguished with low level of usability, the principles of universal design are not taken into consideration, including they are not accessible to users with disabilities. There is a need for implementation of programmes promoting equal opportunities through special attention, which will contribute, for example, to engaging persons with disabilities in business processes, or fully ensuring access of persons with disabilities to services envisaged for general population and special population.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

For the purpose of introducing innovative educational technologies and achieving digital literacy, the introduction of advanced courses in this respect in the system of general education is the key. Programmes for review of educational programme at school and training of teachers will be implemented, which will allow to make the system of general education more flexible, more relevant to the future professions and requirements of the economy. Development of digital skills will be targeted at people with special needs, as an important measure for social inclusion and development of working skills. The Government of the Republic of Armenia initiates drafting of legislative and programme amendments to ensure accessibility of digital services to persons with disabilities. As a result, discussions will be held with non-governmental organisations dealing with issues of persons with disabilities, including the requirements for persons with disabilities, including persons with vision problems, hearing disorders and mental problems to enjoy equal

	<p>rights in the single platform of public service are studied and opportunities are ensured, accessible solutions (Text to Speech and Speech to Text conversions, etc.) are elaborated and introduced, necessary amendments are made to the relevant legal acts, by fully bringing the electronic provisions of state services into compliance with the needs of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will act as responsible and consulting agencies for their professional functions in the process of implementation of digital educational programmes. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia will act as a developer-consultant for a sectoral policy in terms of application of functional solutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result, minimum 60 % of application of electronic tools in the public — among citizens aged 16-65.</p> <p>Developing and introducing at least 5 functional solutions for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Adopting the law of the Republic of Armenia “On freedom of information and public data” and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On cybersecurity and electronic identification”.</p> <p>The authorized institution of the national information system is fully operational.</p> <p>The process of international certification and accreditation of CERT centre (TF-CSIRT, FIRST) under the Information systems agency of Armenia has been ensured.</p> <p>The mechanisms for mandatory civil cyber exercises have been introduced.</p> <p>At least 100 people have undergone training and education tailored to diverse job descriptions.</p>
22.	<p>22. “Developing and introducing the main standards for a digital environment”</p> <p><u>22.1. Creating national standards for formation of digitalisation processes and requirements</u></p> <p><u>22.2. Creating national standards for technical requirements</u></p> <p><u>22.3. Creating national standards for functionality</u></p> <p><u>22.4. Creating state cloud infrastructure requirements/national standards</u></p> <p><u>22.5. Developing cybersecurity standards, formats and procedures</u></p> <p><u>22.6 Publishing guidelines on digitalisation of public services</u></p> <p><u>22.7 Operating in full “Henaket” design system of digital services</u></p>

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 3 of the Subsection "Digitisation" of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from the requirements of point 3 and 4 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 183-L of 11 February 2021 "On approving the Digitisation Strategy of Armenia, Action Plan and outcome indicators of the Strategy".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The implementation of the digitisation policy needs legislative reforms, in particular elaboration of digital standards and requirements, setting of priorities, technical consulting, development of unified digital solutions, standardisation of application of cloud technologies, development of unified system architecture, verification of compliance of standards, etc.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

This defines the procedures and results produced thereby, that are necessary to achieve in order to derive more manageable and better end product. Digitisation projects must meet the mentioned requirements, which must — at each stage of implementation of the programme — ensure the processes for the given stage and their results. Technical specifications must regulate the issues of reliability, enhancement, compatibility, service, high speed, accessibility and availability. The functional standards for digitisation systems will be aimed at supporting the reliability of operating systems, preparation of reports, identification of issues, to also ensure — through unified approaches — the presence of that functionality in the systems. It is envisaged to localise the requirements of state cloud infrastructure, cloud technologies and technical specifications and international standards for physical data centres servicing them. As a result, the Government of the Republic of Armenia will localise and introduce standards for one unified cloud infrastructure and data centres.

The action co-implementing body is "Ekeng" CJSC. "Ekeng" CJSC will serve as a party providing professional and software and technical support at the stages of development and application of standards. The State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia will provide professional consultation in the current activities as a professional body experienced in the application of cloud technologies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

This defines the procedures and results produced thereby, that are necessary to achieve in order to derive more manageable and better end product. Technical specifications will regulate reliability, enhancement capacities, compatibility, servicing capacities, high speed, accessibility and availability of electronic systems and official websites. The functional standards for digitisation systems will define the minimum functionality to be ensured by newly-

	<p>developed digital solutions. Localising/developing standards for one unified cloud infrastructure and data centres.</p> <p>In the process of digitisation of public services state authorities apply unified principles based on the user's experience.</p> <p>Digital checklists of services and appropriate procedures have been published.</p> <p>State digital services apply instruments for collaborative design of both appearance and functionality.</p> <p>All state digital services are designed in accordance with International standards of accessibility and availability.</p>
23	23. "Digitising public services, ensuring online access to public services, establishment of unified service centres"
24	23.6 Legal and procedural mechanisms for the management and funding of digitisation portfolios are introduced.
25	
26	24. "Introducing a single application for state and community services, excluding cases of demanding information from citizens, if the information already exists in a particular database"
27	<p>24.5 Formulation and publication of the complete catalogue of data</p> <p>24.6 Developing a "Cloud-First" strategy by operating appropriate procedures and infrastructures</p> <p>25. "Automating services provided to citizens of the Republic of Armenia located abroad: change of passport, extension of period of validity, issuance of statements of information and a number of other services"</p> <p>26. "Ensuring exclusively electronic communication of state and local self-government bodies with legal entities"</p> <p>Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Data categorised as "open data" and applicable in the state sector under the principle "only once" are fully mapped.</p> <p>The schedule for accessing all databases has been approved.</p> <p>Online data platform (catalogue) has been introduced, and the databases are being published following the approved Schedule.</p> <p>The conceptual grounds for "Cloud-First" data storage strategy are approved based on data classification with collaboration of the private sector and taking into account the business case.</p> <p>Procurement procedures and standard contracts deriving from the "Cloud-First" strategy are developed and are accessible to state authorities and market participants.</p>

The marketplace for data storage and operation infrastructures and services has been operated.

27. “Ensuring predominantly electronic communication of state and local self-government bodies with citizens”

1. Creating a unified electronic platform for programme management

2. Supervising over the safe, smooth launch complying with the general technical standards of the "Government Interoperability Platform" (GIP) electronic systems used for the provision of electronic services or performance of actions by state and local self-government bodies

3. Elaborating and approving the architecture for state digital complex system

4. Establishing a single digital basis (Systems development unified framework)

5. Establishing a National Supercomputer Centre

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)

The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Subsection "Digitisation" of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from the requirements of points 9,10, 11, 17 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 183-L of 11 February 2021 "On approving the Digitisation Strategy of Armenia, Action Plan and outcome indicators of the Strategy".

The necessity for the Action derives from the steps for implementation of the Loan Project of the World Bank “TRADE PROMOTION AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The current electronic document circulation system (communication within and between the state institutions through electronic documents) is built on the principle of simply exchanging document via digital platform, maintaining their paper form. This actually arranges the circulation of a document in paper format electronically, without referring to their content. In case of a newly-recommended solution, the control over the progress of projects is exercised in real time, ensuring maximum transparency in relation the status of all component parts of the project, as a result of which a report on the

final unified status is produced at the given of time. The availability of such a system will provide an opportunity to introduce automatic control systems, which will automatically designate the process or obstacles that pose a risk in the course of implementation of programmes within the time limits and the specified budget.

Methods are currently developed to exchange the data of available systems (GIP — Platform for Interoperability of Public Digitalisation Platforms). This is a very important agenda and its successful implementation will essentially develop the integration of the state digital system. The Government of the Republic of Armenia sees the solution of many issues of the sector of digitisation in the establishment and introduction of a single basis. The digital development of state services is in different stages in different agencies. At present, the state and local self-government bodies have created various platforms for provision of electronic services, the software of which essentially differ from each other and cannot technically be compatible in the unified platform, taking into consideration the unified approaches and standards for collection and storage of information. Currently, the process of procurement of electronic systems and official websites is conducted through acquisition of services of limited effectiveness and low quality. The services of setting up and maintaining services are performed by disproportional and non-effective mechanisms. This results in solutions with low quality criteria and incomplete hardware and software.

Currently, many digital platforms are developed based on essentially different principles in terms of the operating system, programming technologies, databases, their management and accessibility. Presently there is no unified policy for management and storage of data, which is conditioned by the lack of principles of classification of unregulated data. The "one-time" principle of data collection of the functioning system of shared use of data between government agencies will exclude the need for multiple provisions of documents and information by citizens and organisations.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

Currently, there is a need to establish a system for fully digitised document circulation, where documents will be fully electronic, by using fully digital, structured document (JSON, XML) instead of fully electronic formats, i.e. DOC, PDF (or equivalent), which will easily allow to receive information on the content of the document (sender, author, receiver, text content through the Artificial Intelligence, in particular natural language processing, meta-data, status, history of changes, etc.) State project/programme management mechanism, which implies co-operation between different agencies (subsystems) and, as a result, collection of data and drawing up of reports on the progress of the project, in full or in separate parts. The digitisation of state administration requires a systemic solution, which implies having a description of the general state digital system, i.e. the architecture, in which the component parts are designed to solve issues of separate sectors, and are, at the same time, envisaged to effectively co-operate with remaining components to solve general issues. It is envisaged to develop new electronic systems and digital tools according to the priorities of the policies of public administration reforms, during which the issues subject to automation will be identified within the framework of digitisation of processes in the state administration bodies, and new solutions will be developed and introduced through new electronic tools. In light of these activities, it is envisaged to also introduce the unified digital platform for state services “e-gov 2.0”. Secure, uninterrupted interoperability of electronic systems used for provision of electronic services or performance of operations by state and local self-government bodies will be ensured through the “Government Interoperability Platform” (GIP). When conducting state procurement for acquisition of digital solutions, new, more effective mechanisms for selection of suppliers will

	<p>be defined, which will make it possible to obtain high-quality digital solutions. It is envisaged to establish a centre for application of supercomputing technologies, where it will enable to generate cloud infrastructures to ensure the functions of storage, processing and transfer of state and private data.</p> <p>The action co-implementing body is the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and “EKENG” CJSC. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia will serve as the body approving the introduction of the system in final form, and “Ekeng” CJSC will serve as a party providing software and technical support in the stages of development and operation of the system. The stakeholders will act as agencies responsible for professional functions of their electronic services on the platform and providing consultation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Introducing — on a phased basis —one unified system for programme management</p> <p>Creating a single architecture by including micro-service approaches.</p> <p>Creating architecture of a single digital basis, by applying 2 sub-modules of general use.</p> <p>Creating a single data infrastructure with virtual divisions (by defining the accessibility and security standards), by applying general analysis tools and supercomputing software solutions.</p> <p>Secure, uninterrupted interoperability of electronic systems used for provision of electronic services or performance of operations by state and local self-government bodies through “Global Interoperability Platform” (GIP), as well as raising the effectiveness and promoting the transparency of the public administration system.</p>
29.	<p>“Creating a centre for cybersecurity and for development of a fact-based policy”</p> <p><u>1. Creating a National Cybersecurity Agency</u></p> <p><u>2. Establishing a cybersecurity incubator, research and development (R & D) laboratory</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 10 of the Subsection "Digitisation" of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives also from the requirements of points 3, 5 and 12 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 183-L of 11 February 2021 “On approving the Digitisation Strategy of Armenia, Action Plan and outcome indicators of the Strategy”.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the steps for implementation of the Loan Project of the World Bank "TRADE PROMOTION AND QUALITY</p>

INFRASTRUCTRE".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)

The close interagency co-operation and close co-operation with the private sector, localisation of the international practice, as well as review of international standards of cybersecurity, interstate co-operation and membership to international security institutions are key to follow the ongoing development of and changes in technologies and threats in the sector of cybersecurity. For the purpose of eliminating the challenges in the Republic of Armenia, in the sector of cybersecurity, the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages to develop a comprehensive policy and action plan for the general cybersecurity, which will include establishment of the National Cybersecurity Agency, development of risk management and rapid response mechanisms during natural disasters, emergency situations and the martial law. There is no proper training course on cybersecurity.

- The available cybersecurity education and university courses do not have a proper, up-to-date curriculum. The knowledge acquired regarding cybersecurity is not applicable in real life.
- Absence of a criminological laboratory to conduct higher-quality research.
- A low level of cybersecurity worldwide and in the region.
- There is a lack of modern tools and capacities to respond to cases, which results in increase of cyberattacks.
- Absence of decentralised knowledge and conducive environment for establishing new business and for innovative solutions in the sector of cybersecurity.
- Absence of cybersecurity thinking and lack of awareness in the private sector and among the population.
- A lack of integrated environment for provision of cybersecurity-related services for different partners in the country.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)

This defines the security requirements relating to the implementation, servicing and use of digital solutions, which will ensure the reliability, integrity and safety of digital systems and data. The standards will help in making many decisions and displaying generic approach to them. The Programme "Establishing a cybersecurity incubator, research and development (R & D) laboratory" will have 3 main components: (1) Component of capacity-building, which will ensure preparation of new, professional specialists in the cybersecurity through different trainings, as well as update of the university curriculum; (2) component of the Incubation and acceleration programme, which will create new products and business in the sector of cybersecurity that will satisfy the needs of local and global markets; (3) Component of a demo and research cybersecurity laboratory, which will provide the whole infrastructure, software and tools necessary to conduct different tests, simulations, cyberattack simulation exercises, etc. The funding of the Project "Trade Promotion and Quality Infrastructure" will be used to acquire equipment and furniture necessary for laboratories and incubation programme, cover the expenses of the general staff, cover the expenses for maintenance and operation of a laboratory, including organise events, trainings, and use for grants.

	<p>Based on the great experience in the performance of information security operations, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia and the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia will provide professional support in the process of localisation of international cybersecurity standards. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia will serve as parties providing professional consultation in the process of establishing the Agency.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Developing cybersecurity standards and verifying the compliance of state platform therewith.</p>
30.	<p>Action “Providing the municipal and rural settlements of the Republic of Armenia with at least 80% broadband (optic fibre) communication and access to state digital services”</p> <p><u>30.1. Submitting the Strategy for Broadband (optic fibre) Internet Access in the Territory of the Republic of Armenia to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for discussion</u></p> <p><u>30.2. Developing TOR for ADAN (Association of Armenian Data Access Networks) Project Implementation Unit/Advising Agency</u></p> <p><u>30.3. Developing an ADAN programme package</u></p> <p><u>30.4. Distributing state resources and those of significant importance, POPs. Flexibility of components of the infrastructure in emergency situations, including teaching, certification and modelling, compatibility of telecommunication and Internet infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia with modern criteria, including RPKI, DNSSEC, IPv6, improvement of Network Readiness Index position</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Providing the municipal and rural settlements of the Republic of Armenia with at least 80% broadband (optic fibre) communication and access to state digital services” derives from the provisions in particular the requirements of paragraph 4 of the Subsection “Telecommunication” of the Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Programme is ensuring high-speed broadband Internet communication in all settlements of the Republic of Armenia, establishing telecommunication network infrastructure for citizens and business environment, as well as expanding further telecommunication, state government system, business, educational and scientific, cultural and entertainment capabilities based on the basic infrastructure.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the 2020 annual report published by the Public Service Regulatory Commission of the Republic of Armenia, 100% of the settlement of the Republic of Armenia (1002 settlements) is provided with the coverage of the “4G+ (LTE Advanced)” public mobile communication technology, whereas only 513 settlements (51.2%) are provided with fixed broadband Internet access based on “FTTx” optic fibre technology.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>By providing broadband Internet access to all settlements of the Republic of Armenia, it will be possible to form a world-class infrastructure of information/communication technologies in the Republic.</p> <p>Actions will be implemented in the following stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drawing up TOR of “ADAN (Armenian Data Access Network)” Project Implementation Unit/Advising Agency; 2. Developing an ADAN programme package; 3. Building the pilot component of ADAN; 4. Training and certification; 5. Building the main component of ADAN. Deploying resources of state and considerable significance. IPv6, DNSSEC, RPKI, Network Readiness Index. <p>The above-mentioned actions are envisaged to be implemented within 5 years.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of this component will allow ensuring high-quality and high-speed broadband Internet Access in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, which is a precondition for introduction and application of the Internet of things, electronic management solutions.</p> <p>At the same time, the integration of the optic fibre broadband network will increase the reliability of the Internet communication of the Republic of Armenia, and the Internet communication services provided to end users will be more accessible.</p>
31.	<p>31. Controlling radio airtime in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia round-the-clock and ensuring up to 100 % clean airtime, introducing a modern system of mobile and basic radio monitoring</p> <p><u>31.1. Acquiring basic and mobile radio monitoring system in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, constructing radio control stations in the territory of the Republic of Armenia (in 10 marz centres) and introducing the system thereof</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Introducing basic and mobile radio monitoring system for the purpose of control over the quality of the radio airtime” derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 5 of the Subsection “Telecommunication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government off the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of introduction of the basic and mobile radio monitoring system in the territory of the Republic of Armenia is ensuring round-the-clock radio control in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the functions reserved to the competent bodies under the requirements of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On electronic communication”, which will result in identification and exclusion of</p>

	<p>unauthorised broadcasting prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, protecting the air against harmful interferences.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation in relation subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently in the territory of the Republic of Armenia round-the-clock radio monitoring is conducted only in the city of Yerevan, for which technical base serves radio monitoring system with its software installed by the Canadian firm “Aerosystems International” in 2002, which is comprised of 3 basic and 1 mobile stations with minimal technical capacities of 8-hour working regime in the cities of Gyumri and Vanadzor.</p> <p>In the present situation the available equipment does not allow to conduct round-the-clock radio monitoring in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, and to fully ensure and protect – as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia – against harmful and unauthorised interferences, i.e. disperse of unauthorised radio frequencies when broadcasting on-air television and radio programmes, providing mobile cellular communication services.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Upgrading the unified system of basic and mobile radio monitoring stations with new technologies and relevant equipment, which will allow conducting round-the-clock monitoring in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and secure the radio airtime against harmful radio broadcasting not complying with the requirements provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of adoption of the Programme for introduction of the basic and mobile radio monitoring system in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, we will have a network constructed with up-to-date technical solutions, which will allow to conduct round-the-clock monitoring in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia to identify in time and rule out – as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia – radio broadcasting not complying with the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, which will secure the uninterrupted operation of security systems of the State, radio electronic facilities of economic entities.</p>
32.	<p>32. Action “Introducing a system of interactive digital television”</p> <p>32.1. <u>Developing a programme for the development of an interactive digital television in the Republic of Armenia and submitting it to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for discussion</u></p> <p>32.2. <u>Adopting standards</u></p> <p>32.3. <u>Introducing a system</u></p> <p>32.4. <u>Leasing a satellite capacity for satellite transmission of multiplex in the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Introducing a system of interactive digital television” derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 6 of the Subsection “Telecommunication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by</p>

	<p>Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of introducing interactive digital television is providing – through digital broadcasting network – the viewer with interactive content complying with the current requirements of the audience, concurrently, ensuring leasing of a satellite capacity for satellite transmission of multiplex of the republican coverage within the framework of digital television broadcasting in the Republic.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In the Republic of Armenia digital television has started operating since 2016. The digital broadcasting network considered to be the property of the Republic of Armenia is comprised of 213 television stations, in 66 of which the multiplex of the republican coverage is transmitted through the optic fibre system, and in 147 – though the satellite broadcasting network. They are difficult to access for the optic fibre system and are mainly in the high-mountainous and border settlements. The satellite communications facility for delivering multiplex to the mentioned 147 television stations has no alternative. Those stations cover about 20 per cent of the settlements of the Republic.</p> <p>Upon the introduction of the digital broadcasting network based on the DVB-T2 standard, viewers have been provided with excellent quality digital television with certain additional capacities (for example, EPG). However, despite the privileges it has in comparison to the analogous television, it refers to the traditional linear television, which is not adaptive and has no interactivity. This is mainly the reason that the digital on-air television cedes to other broadcasting platforms, such as IP TV and OTT, particularly among young people. Experience has shown that the viewer desires to watch the content he or she prefers within the time period preferable therefor.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>All transmitters-receivers required for arranging the satellite broadcasting have been installed pursuant to the “Programme for implementation of the process of introduction of the system of digital terrestrial television broadcasting in the Republic of Armenia” approved by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 24 of the sitting of 20 June 2013.</p> <p>The mentioned equipment can ensure the viability of the satellite network only through leasing of the relevant satellite capacity, and the lack of the component of functioning digital television interactivity will be possible to compliment through introduction of different applications, using the Internet for feedback.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The introduction of interactive applications will allow to produce content in compliance with the modern requirements of the audience, in particular: Catch-Up and Time Shift, 24/7 operative news, Rich EPG, additional information (weather forecast, currency exchange rate, etc.), video-on-demand (VoD), accessibility of social networks, utility payments, conduct of surveys, E-Gov, E-Health, E- Dram, e-school.am educational and teaching programmes, virtual tourism, etc.</p>
33.	<p>33. Action “Increasing the qualitative level of external relations of the Republic of Armenia,</p>

including the level of security”

33.1. Drawing up TOR for the Black Sea underwater communication channel programme implementation unit/adviser, design works

33.2 Creating a new Black Sea underwater communication channel (Bulgaria-Georgia-Armenia)

- Elaborating the technical and economic model of the communication channel
- Selecting the contractor company for the construction of the communication channel
- Constructing the communication channel
- Selecting/establishing the organisation operating the communication channel
- Putting the communication channel to operation

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action “Increasing the qualitative level of external relations of the Republic of Armenia, including the level of security” derives from the provisions, in particular requirements of paragraph 3 of the Subsection “Telecommunication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The implementation of the given initiative will allow ensuring both the uninterrupted communication in the Republic of Armenia, and will create preconditions to turn Armenia into major regional hub for exchange of Internet data and passing of traffics.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, communications operators of the Republic of Armenia acquire, on the grounds of leasing, international telecommunication channels, the security of which is not guaranteed.

Therefore, necessity has arisen to establish a new alternative telecommunication channel.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to implement the following actions to establish new alternative Black Sea underwater highway communication channel:

- elaborating the technical and economic model of the communication channel;
- selecting the contractor company for the construction of the communication channel;
- constructing the communication channel;
- selecting/establishing the organisation operating the communication channel;

	<p>- putting the communication channel to operation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The newly-established alternative highway communication channel will allow linking the countries of the European Union to the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia, and will allow ensuring exchange of data between the Middle East, Central Asia, China and Europe. The mentioned communication channel will, as well, serve as a security guarantee for the Republic of Armenia.</p>
34.	<p>34 Action “Adopting a comprehensive strategy on development of economy and science in the Republic of Armenia in the sphere of space activities, expansion of international co-operation of the Republic of Armenia in the sphere of strengthening security”</p> <p>34.1. Elaborating a comprehensive strategy of the Republic of Armenia for the sector of space activities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Increasing the qualitative level of external relations of the Republic of Armenia, including the level of security” derives from the provisions, in particular requirements of paragraph 2 of the Subsection “Telecommunication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The sector of space activities of the Republic of Armenia is in the early stage of establishment.</p> <p>In 2019-2020, the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On space activities” and certain procedures ensuring the application of the Law were drafted and adopted, which, however, need amendment and regular improvement.</p> <p>Many agencies, including the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Territorial Administration use the capacities of the sector of space activities to improve the effectiveness of their operation. This process is ongoing, pursuing an aim to raise the quality of public services provided.</p> <p>Currently, the Republic of Armenia barely has any organisation engaged in the space activities, whereas there are specialists that have worked in the sphere of space activities in the Soviet-era and have gained considerable experience and knowledge. There are also scientific institutes that, engaged in the sector, may, in case of sufficient resources, conduct new valuable research in this developing multidimensional spheres.</p> <p>The absence of visions and strategy for the development of the sector essentially impedes to initiation of the co-ordinated support and international co-operation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into consideration the existing issues and peculiarities of the sector, it is necessary to develop a national comprehensive strategy for the development of the sector, which will include steps aimed at both the establishment of relevant infrastructures and development of business environment</p>

	<p>of the sector, and regular improvement of the legal framework.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>In the course of the Action it is expected to develop a strategy and relevant action plan conducive to the development of the sector of space activities, which will address, through qualitative and quantitative indicators, the issues of development of the economy, science, strengthening of the security of the Republic of Armenia and will contribute to the expansion of the international co-operation.</p>
35.	<p>35. “Availability of, access to universal services of postal communication and high quality of provision of the services”</p> <p><u>35.1. Elaborating a draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On postal communication'"</u></p> <p><u>35.2. Elaborating legal acts deriving from the Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On postal communication'"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Availability of, access to universal services of postal communication and high quality of provision of the services” derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 2 of the Subsection “Postal communication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as is related to the improvement of legal grounds for the activities in the sphere of postal communication, taking into consideration the modern trends for development of the sector of postal communication, development of the market of postal communication services, as well as the international practice in the legal regulation of the sphere of postal communication.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Currently, the postal communication in the Republic of Armenia is regulated by the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On postal communication” and “On licensing”, as well as other legal acts.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Currently, based on the international trends for the development of the sector, as well as the Istanbul World Postal Strategy, the authorised body in the sector of postal communication conducts the process of bringing the policy into compliance.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, the legislative framework of the postal sector will be brought into compliance with the legislative framework of the postal sector operating in the European countries, in particular with respect to the provision of universal postal services - availability of, access to universal services of postal communication and high quality of provision of the services will be ensured. The market mechanisms in the postal sector will be promoted, health competition will be ensured and favourable conditions will be created for the development of entrepreneurship.</p>
36.	<p>36. “Increasing attractiveness of the field of investments in the market of postal services”</p> <p><u>36.1. Submitting the Concept Paper for Development of the Postal Sector and the Schedule for Implementation of Actions deriving from the Concept Paper to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for discussion</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Increasing attractiveness of the field of investments in the market of postal services” derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 2 of the Subsection “Postal communication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as is related to the improvement of legal grounds for the activities in the sphere of postal communication, taking into consideration the modern trends for development of the sector of postal communication, development of the market of postal communication services, as well as the international practice in the legal regulation of the sphere of postal communication.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Currently, the sphere of postal communication in the Republic of Armenia is regulated by the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On postal communication” and “On licensing”, as well as other legal acts. The overall development of the sector of postal communication ultimately depends on the legislative framework regulating the sector, for the purpose of making reforms wherein the best international practice has been studied. The current issue in the sector of the postal communication is the necessity to establish a more comprehensive legislative framework for regulating the sector.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Currently, based on the international trends for development of the sector, as well as the Abidjan Postal Strategy, the authorised body in the sector of postal communication conducts the process of bringing the policy into compliance.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, such conceptual provisions for development of the postal sector will be ensured that serve as a ground for</p>

	<p>further improvement of the legislation currently in force, promoting the attractiveness of the field of investments in the market of postal services, development and export of electronic commerce, increasing the effectiveness and interoperability of infrastructures of the postal network.</p> <p>Establishing and promoting the conditions for introducing new services, including postbank, financial and electronic postal services.</p>
37.	<p style="text-align: center;">37. “Providing a wide range of services in postal units”</p> <p><u>37.1. Expanding the list of services, including state services provided by "HayPost" CJSC, and the number of Unified Offices for Public Services</u></p> <p><u>37.2. Modernising and re-equipping the postal infrastructure of "HayPost" CJSC</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Providing a wide range of services in postal units” derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 4 of the Subsection “Postal communication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as is related to the improvement of legal grounds for the activities in the sphere of postal communication, taking into consideration the modern trends for development of the sector of postal communication, development of the market of postal communication services, as well as the international practice in the legal regulation of the sphere of postal communication.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>Since 1992, the Republic of Armenia has been considered a member of the Global Postal Union and is committed to ensuring availability of, access to universal services of postal communication. Currently, "HayPost" CJSC, as a national postal communication operator, manages 1209 postal indices, servicing more than 750.000 addresses in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia through 850 postal units.</p> <p>Given the availability of such a network, an objective must be set to use that network more effectively and in the best possible manner from the perspective of state interests. With the public postal network, the State does not need to establish other similar networks, and the full loading of this network, in addition to the apparent interests of the State, will ensure considerable changes in the cost model for other services (including in the prime cost of postal services), which will, in its turn, allow setting lower level of tariffs for postal and other public services.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Expanding the list of services, including state services provided by "HayPost" CJSC, and the number of Unified Offices for Public Services</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will ensure provision of state services in 850 postal units of “HayPost” CJSC and opening of Unified Offices for Public Services in all marzes of the Republic of Armenia, that will allow making the state services accessible to all users in whole territory of the country, which will ensure proportionate development of territories, exclusion of territorial discrimination for users, operability and resource saving.</p>
38.	<p>38. “Developing electronic commerce”</p> <p><u>38.1. Adopting Decision of the Government “On approving the Draft Law “On electronic commerce”</u></p> <p><u>38.2. Adopting legal acts deriving from the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On electronic commerce”</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action (also with indication of the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the relevant point of the Programme of the Government serving as a ground for adoption of secondary legal acts subject to adoption under the Programme)</p> <p>The necessity for the Action “Developing electronic commerce” derives from the provisions, in particular the requirements of paragraph 5 of the Subsection “Postal communication” of Section 2.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as is conditioned by the improvement of the legal framework in the sector of electronic commerce.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of initial data, where available)</p> <p>The overall development of the electronic commerce ultimately depends on the legislative framework regulating the sector, for the purpose of improvement of which the best international practice has been studied. The current issue of the sector of the postal communication is the necessity for establishing a more comprehensive legislative framework for regulating the sector.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case a co-implementing body is assigned for the action, also indicate the activities subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Improving the legal framework in the sector of electronic commerce</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p>

Ministry of Economy	
NN	RATIONALE
1	<p><i>The implementation of the objective “1. Ensuring economic growth by 7-9%” of the actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to achieving the following targets and target results of the “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050” (of at least indicators of 2025):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>all target results of Action 7; (page 46)</i> <i>Target Result 9.1 of Action 9, Indicator 9.1.2 (page 54)</i> <i>Target Result 9.2 of Action 9, Indicators 9.2.1 and 9.2.3 (page 54)</i> <i>Indicators of Target Result 14.4 of Action 14 in full (page 53)</i> <i>Target Result 15.1 of Action 15, Indicator 15.1.3 (page 54)</i> <i>Target Result 3.4 of Action 3, Indicators 3.4.1 (page 54)</i> <i>Target Result 4.2 of Action 4, Indicator 4.2.2 (page 43)</i> <p>1.1. Elaborating and implementing an economic development policy Approving the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the economic development policy”</p> <p>1. <u>Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</u></p> <p>From the point of view of development of the economy of Armenia it is important to produce and develop economic and business components in the sectors of social orientation (education, healthcare), which implies development and implementation of relevant sectoral economic policies, elaboration and application of new toolkit thereunder. The implementation of the above-mentioned policies will result in not only social, but also economic development of those sectors, thus increasing the quality of the services provided. The 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages to “switch from social assistance mechanisms to introduction of economic development mechanisms”. “Progressive practices for planning and implementing strategies and policies will be introduced, the methodological grounds required for those strategies and policies will be updated. Policy development will be fact-based, with sufficient analytical substantiation, operable systems for assessment of regulation impact and professional capacities” (Subpoints 1 and 2 of paragraph 1 of Subsection 6.1 and next-to-last subpoint of Subsection 6.6 of the Section “6. Institutional development” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia).</p> <p>The promises made by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia during the visits to marzes essentially constitute the benchmark for economic development of the sectors (in particular, Armavir Marz – we must ensure that women are active and employed, ensure healthcare, etc.)</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of envisaged documents is point 15 of Annex 15 approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N “On</p>

	<p>the structure and activities of the Government”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The development of the economic policy will allow identifying the potential of economic development of different sectors of the economy and elaborate actions for the purpose of social and economic development of those sectors.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating and implementing a policy for economic development</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The policy for different economic development is elaborated.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>1.2. Improving the management of public investments</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by paragraph 1 and subpoints 2 and 3 of paragraph 2 of the part “System of management of public investments” of the Subsection “6.10 State expenditures” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as by the improvement of the existing system of management of public finances and the process of decision-making regarding public investments in the Republic of Armenia and by the increase of the effectiveness of the mentioned system. This will lay the groundwork for implementation of long-term public investment programmes and full assessment and management of their social, financial and economic impact.</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of envisaged documents is point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N “On the structure and activities of the Government”; Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 472-L of 4 May 2021; subpoint 11 of point 10 and subpoint 4 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia has no unified platform for public investment programmes to publish reports and ensure accessibility of data. The existing issues are considered to be also the lack of ideas in sectoral agencies, planning- and management-related issues and absence of participatory liability.</p> <p>On 4 May 2021, Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 472-A “On approving the procedure for identifying, developing, evaluating, drawing up and introducing the list of priorities of public investment programmes in the Republic of Armenia, the methodology of evaluation of public investment programmes, the model form of development and evaluation a public investment programme” was adopted within the framework of introduction of the system of management of public investments. In this regard, the system of public investment appraisal will be developed and assessed with an aim to regularly improve the system of management of public investments and develop the capacities of the infrastructure.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establishing a bank /a database for publishing data on public investment programmes in the Republic of Armenia; ➤ Contributing to fully making capital investments provided for by the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia; ➤ Evaluating programmes and determining the priorities by the criteria of the methodology of management of public investments; ➤ Conducting a study of financial values, preliminary feasibility studies and techno-economic surveys; ➤ Excluding by sectoral agencies of the possibility of developing programmes based on identical ideas. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The expected outcome of establishment of a database for public investment programmes are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ensuring transparency, accountability, monitoring for public investment programmes; ➤ identifying the issues arisen and undertaking the relevant actions for solving them; ➤ enabling record-keeping of the amounts of financial resources necessary for satisfaction of the confirmed demand or need of the country for infrastructure programmes and qualitative and quantitative indicators of the economic effectiveness of implementation of the programmes; ➤ maintaining accountability and statistics on programmes, conducting regular monitoring; ➤ effectively implementing and managing public investment programmes developing, in a co-ordinated and institutionalised manner, the stage of planning of management of public investments; ➤ effectively implementing and managing public investment programmes developing, in a co-ordinated and institutionalised manner, the stage of planning of management of public investments;
	<p>1.3. Revealing the demands of the economy in the labour market</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Along with the development of the economy, the demand for knowledge and skills of relevant employees and specialists regularly changes, as well. In this context, greater importance is attached to the preparation by the education system of specialists in compliance with the demands of the business environment, which will later also contribute to their employment, as well as improvement of activities of organisations.</p> <p>From the point of view of the foregoing, importance is attached to the development of methodology of order for education system, making relevant calculations based thereon and submitting relevant recommendations for the continuity thereof, which has a demanded and will be demanded in terms of education and the business environment.</p>

Pursuant to the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia: “To boost inclusive economic growth, activities will be carried out to generate investments in human capital and create new jobs, eliminate discrimination in the economy and raise the level of participation”; “The existing system of education, training and retraining of state servants will be radically reviewed, training opportunities with progressive technological solutions will be introduced, the policy on capacity-building and the advancement of knowledge will be reviewed for the enhancement of human capital and the engagement and maintenance of talents in the public sector”, etc. (the next-to-last subpoint of paragraph 1 of Subsection 6.3 of Section 6, paragraphs 1 and 3 of 7 and 8 [incomprehensible], paragraph 11 of the Section “2. Economy”, paragraph 3 and subpoints 6 and 7 of paragraph 5 of the Subsection “Development of small and medium-sized enterprises” of Section 2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.)

The election promises of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia include the following: He declared the following in Avan: “The link between education system and labour market must be strengthened to effectively organise the life of people”, and the election promises in Tavush Marz include the following: “We will conduct educational revolution”.

The legislative ground for elaboration of the documents is point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N “On the structure and activities of the Government”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At the present moment there is no methodology for order for education system in Armenia, which does not allow assessing and obtaining the full picture of the demands the business environment puts forward to the labour force. In addition, the lack thereof does not allow developing relevant programmes, satisfying the demands of the business environment.

The Employment Strategy is currently being developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with the participation of the Ministry of Economy, which will provide trends in the development of the labour market and the main directions of educational programmes. The strategy will also provide the main methodological guidelines for revealing the demand for labour force.

In addition, starting from 2023, the ISCO-08 international standard classification of occupations, which reflects modern approaches to the labour market, and the ESCO skills classification will be adapted with the support of the European Union, through which it will already be possible to subject the data of the Statistical Committee, the State Revenue Committee to a deeper analysis and to reveal not only the required professions, but also the required skills for real. The classifiers will be ready by the end of 2023.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Developing the methodology for order for education system, making assessments based thereon and submitting relevant programme-related recommendations

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Developing and applying the methodology for order for education system, which will result in satisfying the demand for labour force with relevant

	educational qualifications.
	<p><u>1.4. Developing the public and private partnership, approving the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for public and private partnership, creating a database on public and private partnership programmes and approving the procedure for management thereof, defining the sectors of public services provided within the scope of public and private partnership programmes, sub-division of the public and private partnership, the form of report on implementation of the public and private partnership programme and the time limit for submission thereof and repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1241-N of 20 September 2012"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by paragraph 1 and the whole paragraph 2 of the part "System of management of public investment" of the Section "6.10 State expenditures" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In addition, the necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by finalisation of the PPP legislative framework, as well as elaboration of necessary regulations for the purpose of developing effective PPP programmes in the Republic of Armenia, ensuring procurement and management activities, which will thoroughly describe the procedure, steps for implementing successful PPP programmes in compliance with the international practice and the sequence of their implementation.</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents is point 15 of Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government"; Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-113-N of 28 January 2019 "On public and private partnership"; subpoint 9 of point 10, subpoint 12 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the lack of comprehensive legislation regulating the PPP impedes the full-fledged development of the system, creating certain risks at all stages of selection and implementation of PPP programmes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Developing a clear set of rules and procedure applicable in relation to the development and implementation of PPP programmes in the Republic of Armenia, which will contribute to making the new PPP system more integrated and forming a clear legislative framework therefor.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will establish the necessary legislative and institutional grounds for developing, promoting PPP programmes, will ensure development of institutional capacities for effective application of the PPP, as well as will expand the opportunities for engaging both the local and foreign private sectors in infrastructure programmes in the PPP format. By 2026, it is expected to develop and launch at least 3 PPP programmes.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">1.5. Approving the Concept Paper for the Programme for Yerevan-Tbilisi High-Speed Train, elaborating and implementing a roadmap where approved</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the establishment of modern infrastructure, which will allow ensuring high-quality communication between two countries.</p> <p>During the election campaign the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has stated the following in the community of Avan: “We see the road of industrialisation of Armenia through opening of communications, which implies also railway communication with the outside world”.</p> <p>Subpoint 1 of paragraph 1 of the part “Railway transport” of Subsection 3.1 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the communication is ensured by air and mainly by motor roads, which is time-consuming.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issue it is envisaged to compensate for the additional expenses generated during the transportation by an alternative road, acquire a high-speed train. The purchase of the train will be carried out at the expense of the funds of the State, and it will be used by “South Caucasus Railway” CJSC.</p> <p>The concept paper will be developed, approved and implemented pursuant to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 472-L of 4 May 2021 “On approving the procedure for identifying, developing, evaluating, drawing and introducing the list of priorities of public investment programmes in the Republic of Armenia, methodology of evaluation of public investment programmes, the model form of drafting and evaluating a public investment programme”.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improving the quality of communication, and reducing the transportation time.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">1.6. Approving the Concept Paper for the Formation of Copper Foundry Clusters, elaborating and implementing a roadmap where approved</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The mining industry and, particularly, the extraction and export of copper has a significant role for the economy of the Republic. The objective of the Action is creating a higher added value through enhancement of processing of the product by use of new technologies.</p>

During the election campaign the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has stated the following in the city of Armavir of Armavir Marz:

“Armenia must switch from a country exporting ore to a country exporting finished copper products”, and in the city of Kajaran of Syunik Marz — “We must establish a copper plant for processing in the Republic of Armenia and make the processing chain as long as possible”.

The Action derives also from subpoint 4 of paragraph 5 and sub-point 5 of paragraph 7 of the Subsection “2.1 Manufacturing industry” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Armenia has rich resources of copper that are exported to other countries unprocessed, i.e. as a copper concentrate. This fact impedes the process of elongating the production chain to the extent possible, promoting the release of more complex and high-value products.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is necessary to elaborate a feasibility document for establishment of the copper plant, based on which the copper plan will be established. As a result, the raw material extracted in the Republic of Armenia will undergo deep processing, and will result in pure copper, which will create great opportunities for providing finished products and creating added value.

The concept paper will be elaborated, approved and implemented pursuant to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 472-L of 4 May 2021 “On approving the procedure for identifying, developing, evaluating, drawing and introducing the list of priorities of public investment programmes in the Republic of Armenia, methodology of evaluation of public investment programmes, the model form of drafting and evaluating a public investment programme”.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The operation of a copper smelter will play a role of locomotive for the development of the economy of the Republic and will promote the development of other branches of the Republic, generating taxes, creating new jobs, contributing to poverty reduction. Enhancing copper processing, which includes electrical copper, and further also organising cable production will promote the development of the electrical and technical complex of the Republic.

1.7. Approving the Concept Paper for Large Investment Programmes, elaborating and implementing a roadmap where approved

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by establishment of an effective mechanism and favourable environment for recognisability of Armenia and trust in the country, enhancing the investment attractiveness and engaging large investment programmes, engaging intensive investments and ensuring of implementation of programmes.

The Action derives also from paragraphs 2, 5-7 of the part “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

	<p>During the election campaign the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has stated the following at the Square of Yerevan: “Expanding the potential of export and investments, including through the policy of opening communications”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Armenia has great potential and opportunities for engaging investments in different sectors, for which it is necessary to introduce efficient mechanisms and establish a unified platform. Issues related to the accessibility of the information necessary for local and foreign investors, as well as a gap in providing by the State information on relevant toolkits for support to investors.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to develop a unified platform for accessibility of the information to local and foreign investors and efficient mechanisms for effective implementation of programmes.</p> <p>The concept paper will be developed, approved and implemented pursuant to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 472-L of 4 May 2021 “On approving the procedure for identifying, developing, evaluating, drawing and introducing the list of priorities of public investment programmes in the Republic of Armenia, methodology of evaluation of public investment programmes, the model form of drafting and evaluating a public investment programme”.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to ensure investment flows in different sectors of the economy and perform efficient steps for their implementation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>1.8. Co-ordinating works for the implementation of Amulsar Gold Mining Project</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the implementation of Amulsar Gold Mining Project.</p> <p>The Action derives from subpoint 9 of paragraph 1 of the Section “2.8 Sustainable management of natural resources” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, activities in relation to the exploitation of Amulsar Mine are carried out, given the investments already made and the infrastructures constructed. The main objective is exploiting the mine, guided by environmental norms and norms of subsoil use.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issue, it is envisaged that the State will introduce a state control mechanism for the exploitation of</p>

	<p>the mine and co-ordinate the Project.</p> <p>The concept paper will be developed, approved and implemented pursuant to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 472-L of 4 May 2021 “On approving the procedure for identifying, developing, evaluating, drawing and introducing the list of priorities of public investment programmes in the Republic of Armenia, methodology of evaluation of public investment programmes, the model form of drafting and evaluating a public investment programme”.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Exploiting Amulsar mine and implementing consistent co-ordination by the State for the Project — ensuring revenues of the State Budget and ensuring environmental norms</p>
2	<p><i>The fulfilment of the objective “2. Productivity growth and reduction of unemployment: Productivity 12\$ GDP/person*hour, unemployment: <10%” of the Actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to achieving the following targets and target results of “Armenia Transformation 2050” (of at least the indicators of 2025):</i></p> <p>1. Target Result 7.1 of Action 7, Indicator 7.1.2 (page 46)</p> <p>2. Target Result 7.2 of Action 7, Indicator 7.2.2 (page 46)</p> <p><u>2.1. Technological modernisation in strategic and priority sectors and optimisation of business processes</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action has been developed based on Assignment of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 02/08.2/29772-2021 of 31 August 2021; election promises made by the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to the citizens during visits to the communities of the Republic of Armenia and during the election campaign (4-17 June 2021) (Our strategic perception of the economy is that it must be knowledge-based, starting from the agriculture to the product, they must be based on knowledge and competence, the culmination of which must be improvement of work productivity); the main areas of the Subsection “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the actions envisaged for achieving the economic targets of the Government stipulated in the (2021-2026) Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the main areas of state support stipulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state support to small and medium-sized enterprises” (support to innovative activities and introduction of modern technologies).</p> <p>The Action derives from the provisions of subpoints 5, 7 and 10 of paragraph 7 of the Subsection “2.1 Manufacturing industry”, paragraph 7 of the part “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The application of modern technologies in the majority of companies operating in the field of industry of the Republic of Armenia is at the low level. In</p>

	<p>addition to the fact that the use of out-of-date equipment results in non-effective use of the raw material, time and energetic resources, it adversely affects the quality of the product released. Moreover, the use of out-of-date equipment leads to such a situation where the industry of Armenia is not ready to use possible competitive advantages giving arisen as a result of the industrial revolution.</p> <p>Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues it is necessary to introduce an additional toolkit for state support to enterprises of the field of industry, i.e. a mechanism for subsidising the leasing.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is envisaged the following: productivity - 12\$ GDP/person x hour, reduction of unemployment — <10%.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2.2. Engaging specialists highly-qualified in the labour market in local companies</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by Assignment of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 02/08.2/29772-2021 of 31 August 2021, i.e. necessity to fulfil the election promises made by the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to the citizens during the visits paid to the communities of the Republic of Armenia and during the election campaign (4-17 June 2021) (Our strategic perception of the economy is that it must be knowledge-based, starting from the agriculture to the product, they must be based on knowledge and competence, the culmination of which must be improvement of work productivity); by the necessity to implement subpoints 3 and 9 of the last paragraph of the part “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the Section “2. Economy”, subpoint 2 of paragraph 8 of the Section “2. Economy”, paragraph 1, sub-point 4 of paragraph 4 and subpoints 6 and 10 of paragraph 5 of the Part “Development of small and medium-sized enterprises” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>3. Ground: demand for ensuring the implementation of actions of the Section “Capacity-building of the entities of small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting entrepreneurial culture” of Part 2 of Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1443-L of 27 August 2020 (The 2020-2022 Action Plan deriving from the 2020-2024 Strategy for development of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship) and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state support to the small and medium-sized entrepreneurship”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The study of the current situation has shown that in the current economic reality the capacity-building, necessity for application of modern business management approaches and innovative products to ensure effective, competitive and sustainable management is undeniable.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will promote the process of ensuring the reproduction and development of high quality labour force, competitiveness</p>

	<p>and social cohesion.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will contribute to the availability of specialists that have undergone training based on the trends and needs of the labour market and increase of business capabilities.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action envisages to engage, as outcome, at least 200 sought-after, highly-qualified specialists from foreign labour markets annually, to each of which at least 2 specialists of entry level/ with no sufficient experience in the given field, engaged from the local labour market will be attached; thus educating and providing well paid jobs to 600 local specialists annually.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2.3. Approving a Concept Paper for promotion of application of digital tools in the economy</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The digital economy is in the frontline of all developments, and the whole world tends to achieve the next level of digital integrity and solidarity. The following are key to the further economic development of the Republic of Armenia and its relation to the 4th industrial revolution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopting a Concept paper for digitisation of the economy; 2. Approving the Action Plan deriving from the digitisation of the economy; 3. Developing and introducing a toolkit promoting the introduction of the systems of electronic management in business processes. <p>The elaboration of the Action is based on the provisions of subpoint 4 of paragraph 6 and subpoint 9 of paragraph 7 of the part “Improvement of the business and improvement environment” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>At the Square of Yerevan the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has stated that our strategic perception of the economy is that it must be knowledge-based, starting from the agriculture to the product, they must be based on knowledge and competence, the culmination of which must be improvement of work productivity).</p> <p>The legislative grounds for elaboration of envisaged documents is Action 4.4 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1443 of 27 August 2020 “On approving the 2020-2024 Strategy for the development of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship and the 2020-2022 Action Plan deriving therefrom”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>While the activities for digitisation of services are carried out at the level of the Government, the sector “Digital economy” is not yet sufficiently studied and summarised in the current strategic documents. An important end-point for the full development of the infrastructure of digital economy is the completion of digitisation of main services and establishment of a live base for the collection of data, whereas an action plan of the Government of the</p>

	<p>Republic of Armenia on building the digital capacities of the business itself is not developed yet.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>While certain state bodies focus on the afore-mentioned, the agenda of the digital economy will be set in the following manner:</p> <p>Developing a comprehensive strategy for achieving the objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of international trends and best practice in the digital economy (in co-operation with international organisations) • Assessing these trends, taking into consideration the potential and capacities for the economic development of Armenia. • Specifying the development clusters as priorities • Developing action plans with involvement of the private sector and international organisations (financial and technical support) <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The direction and vision of the digital economy of Armenia • Specifying the primary clusters, which Armenia may benefit from to position itself in the market of the digital economy <p>Approving by the Government of the Republic of Armenia the action plan for achieving the objectives, as well as the concept paper and action plan for the digitisation of the economy. It is envisaged to provide support to 400 business entities annually, that will switch over to the introduction of electronic management systems in the business processes.</p>
3	<p><i>The fulfilment of the objective “3. Improving the business and investment environment. Investments/GDP - 25%, FDI/GDP - 6%” of the actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to achieving the following targets and target results of “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050”:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Indicators of Target Result 14.1 of Action 14 in full (page 53)</i> <i>2. Target Result 14.2 of Action 14, Measure 14.2.1 (page 53)</i> <i>3. Indicators of Target Result 14.4 of Action 14 in full (page 53)</i> <p><u>3.1. Developing and implementing the investment policy. Developing a legal act on approving the investment policy</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objectives of the state policy in the investment sector in Armenia are the following: improving the investment environment, upgrading the legislative framework and promoting investments, including foreign direct investments in the economy of the Republic of Armenia. The improvement of the investment policy will fulfil the following objectives: reducing impediments for investors to enter the sectors of key significance, increasing the level</p>

	<p>of protection of investors, the level of guarantees and stability of the legislative framework, a system of more transparent, effective and efficient incentives, which will result in growth in investments.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Over the past few years, a trend for decrease in investments, in particular, in foreign investments is observed in the global arena, and there is an issue of reducing the impact thereof on the economy of the Republic of Armenia to the extent possible. The implementation of the Action also derives from paragraphs 4 and 5 of the part “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to raise the effectiveness of the implementation of investment policy, in particular through analysis and elimination of impediments to the investment environment, build confidence among investors and improve the protection mechanisms.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>It is envisaged to have unimpeded, clearly regulated, competitive investment environment, as well as sequence of logical steps of presenting it on international platforms, which will result in the growth of investment flows. Investments/GDP — 25%; DFI/GDP — 6%.</p>
	<p><u>3.2. Promoting introduction of up-to-date corporate governance systems in companies</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Armenia considers the application of the principles of corporate governance (CG) as a key factor for sustainable development of the private sector, and the accountability of the management bodies of organisations and transparency of their decisions —as a means of reduction of risks in the private sector and promotion of the flow of foreign investments.</p> <p>The Government has adopted a policy of encouraging the application of principles of corporate governance in the private sector and supporting the advancement of programmes implemented in that direction.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives also from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> point 2 of paragraph 2 of the part “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the Section “2. Economy”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2014-2015, the principles of corporate governance were reviewed, therefore the Code of Corporate Governance in force in the Republic of Armenia since 2010 is subject to revision. In addition, taking into consideration that the application thereof is not mandatory, while in the international practice it is considered that partners applying the CG principles are more reliable, it is necessary to promote the introduction of the CG principles in Armenian companies.</p>

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to change the Code of Corporate Governance completely, as well as publish the Guideline on Corporate Governance, the introduction and implementation of the Code of Corporate Governance, assessment criteria and corporate governance assessment sheet, for the purpose of ensuring attraction of long-term investments in the economy, sustainability of the business sector through formation of an environment of transparency, trust, integrity and accountability, promotion of economic growth, as well as involvement of the public in the process of economic decision making, as well as elaborate relevant recommendations/mechanisms to promote the introduction of the CG principles.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

Given the adoption of the Draft, the expected outcome will be the strengthening of the role of corporate governance as a mechanism that improves the business environment and is aimed at long-term success of organisations, transparency of the organisation, improvement of the performance of organisations, creation of an effective supervision environment, development of law-abiding conduct and ethical awareness, as well as contribution to the attraction of long-term investments in the private sector.

3.3 Elaborating and implementing a programme for improvement of the business environment, approving the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Programme for Improving the Business Environment"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The objective of implementation of the Action is ensuring the continuity of reforms carried out by the Government of the Republic of Armenia to improve the business and investment environment of the Republic of Armenia.

The implementation of the Action derives also from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, *i.e.* paragraph 6 of the part “Improvement of the business and investment environment” of the Section “2. Economy” in full.

The legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents is point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N “On the structure and activities of the Government”. 3 Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 246-L of 27 February 2020 “On approving the 2020-2023 Action Plan for improving the business environment of Armenia”, sub-points 2 and 3 of point 10 and sub-points 28-30 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Government continues to take steps towards creating a simple, transparent and cost-effective environment for state regulations, services and administrative procedures, ensuring favourable conditions for all economic entities.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

	<p>It is envisaged to develop a programme for improvement of the business environment, by drafting and implementing at least 50 legal acts.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Actions, it is expected to continue carrying out activities aimed at reducing for economic entities the administrative burden of communication with state and community bodies, reducing corruption risks, increasing the transparency of activities of bodies providing services to businessmen. Preparing and implementing at least 50 legal acts, improving the business environment and reducing bureaucracy within the framework of the approved programme.</p>
	<p><u>3.4. Approving the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On defining the criteria for complex economic investment programmes" and establishing an Investment Board within the framework thereof</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The studies have shown that the countries, the export of which is more complex that is expected by the level of their revenues, grow more rapidly. The objective of the Action is creating an environment that is stimulating for companies with the potential to manufacture/export products with economic complexity.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives also from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, <i>i.e.</i> paragraph 4, point 5 of paragraph 8 of the part "Improvement of the business and investment environment" and paragraph 4 of the Subsection "2.1 Manufacturing industry" of the Section "2. Economy".</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents is point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government". Sub-point 3 of point 10, sub-point 28 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The major export of Armenia falls to products with low complexity, minerals and agriculture. By the Economic Complexity Index Armenia still ranks below average among the neighbouring countries and the EASA countries.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to approve the criteria for complex economic investment programmes, the procedure for evaluation and approval thereof, define the amount of assistance and the mechanisms for benefiting therefrom, including the rules of procedure of the inter-agency council.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>It is expected to create a favourable environment for companies manufacturing products with economical complex, which will be an additional stimulus for enhancing the competitiveness of the economy, promoting the investment attractiveness and engaging investments of new quality.</p>

3.5. Co-operating with companies publishing important international indicators and ratings

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The objective of implementation of the Action is creating internationally competitive business and investment environment, alleviating the existing administrative and financial burden, ensuring the development of the spheres of the private sector at a high pace.

The implementation of the Action derives also from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, i.e. the part "Improvement of the business and investment environment" of the Section "2. Economy".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It is envisaged to consider the assessments of impact on the quality and the business environment of the economic policy through internationally accepted and recognised universal indexes.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to launch the roadmap, provide operative and regular analyses, improve the indicators and indexes.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

Forming foreseeable and reliable business environment, which will be the main guarantee of increase of investments, ensure large amounts of internal investments and sufficient inflow of foreign investments.

3.6 Unifying state financial infrastructures /DICA, FREDA, etc./

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Saving state financial means, increasing the effectiveness of management of institutions, as well as increasing the accessibility of existing tool kits and reducing time limits for procedures for economic entities, simplifying the administration.

The Action derives also from the provisions of sub-point 7 of paragraph 7 of the Subsection "2.1 Manufacturing industry" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Longer time limits for procedures, which gives rise to additional administrative obstacles for economic entities and results in the slowdown in the processes.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issues it is envisaged to have one unified institution in the Republic of Armenia, which will unite the

	<p>operating institutions, and the co-ordination will be carried out under one institution. The activities of the institution will contribute to the effective and equal application of the administration.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result, the effectiveness of the existing functions and provided services will be improved.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>3.7 Property in exchange for Investments</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the effective use of the state property. In case of providing state property, it is envisaged to engage investments in the spheres of the manufacturing industry. The relevant property will be evaluated by the State, and the property will be provided to the investor by the right of ownership in case an investment in the four-fold of the value of the property is carried out thereby.</p> <p>It is recommended to set the deadline for approval of the programme the 3rd ten-day period of December 2023, taking into account that the implementation of the programme requires making of a number of legislative amendments and approximation of legal framework.</p> <p>At the same time, we should note that in the near future, it is planned to make amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state property management", which will enable the provision of state property free of charge, with the right of ownership, in exchange for investments. The Action derives also from the provisions of Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the state property is sold by auction or tender. In this case, the effectiveness of implementation of investment programmes is low, as investors have to make payments for the acquisition of the property, and those amounts are not geared down to the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issues, it is envisaged to develop a mechanism, based on which the state property will be an investment component for the implementation of the investment programme.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Engaging investments by use of state property. Approximation of legal framework for the implementation of the programme.</p>
	<p><u>3.8 Approving the programme "Infrastructures against Investments" and implementing it where approved</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by creation of favourable conditions for investments. It is envisaged to attract investments by encouraging and supporting investments, in particular by providing with necessary infrastructure. The State will carry out the construction of infrastructures in the</p>

	<p>relevant area, in the amount of 10 per cent of the investments envisaged.</p> <p>The Action derives also from the provisions of sub-point 1 of paragraph 6 of the Subsection "2.1 Manufacturing industry" and sub-point 3 of paragraph 6 of the part "Improvement of the business and investment environment" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, during the implementation of the programme the investors have to construct also the infrastructures necessary for their activities, in particular a road, gas supply, water supply, etc., which makes Armenia unattractive for investments.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issues, it is envisaged to introduce a mechanism, according to which the State will assume an obligation to establish the necessary infrastructures provided that investments are made.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Enhancing the attractiveness of engaging investments.</p>
	<p><u>3.9. Developing the sector of intellectual property, adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On trademarks'" and adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Strategy for Development of the Sector of Intellectual Property"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action derives from the provision "A strategy on development of intellectual property will be developed for the purpose of establishing a favourable environment for creativity and investments and ensuring effective and reliable maintenance and protection of intellectual property rights" of point 10 of paragraph 7 of the part "Improvement of the business and investment environment" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The system of effective and reliable protection of the intellectual property rights (IPR) promotes the science and innovation, providing sustainable preconditions for authors, inventors, innovators to create intellectual values. The objective of the IP strategy is understanding the importance of IP rights and supporting the protection of IP rights to promote the creative work in the art, science, science and research, as well as to ensure the technical progress and the dissemination and application of their outcome in the market. This, in its turn, will serve, as a powerful force, to the development of the innovation and contribute to the economic and social development of Armenia.</p> <p>The main objective of implementation of the Action is developing a strategy on development of intellectual property and improving the system of legal protection of trademarks in the Republic of Armenia.</p>

Within the framework of the strategy, institutional reforms will be made, more effective mechanisms for the protection of IP rights will be introduced. The strategy will cover the development of educational programmes on IPR and their inclusion in the educational system. The objective of their inclusion on educational programmes is encouraging adolescents and young people to create, develop creative and analytical thinking, innovative skills, as well as develop respect for knowledge, innovations and intellectual property rights.

The effective system of IP rights is one of the issues of the knowledge-based and science-based economy.

A strategy on development of intellectual property is envisaged to develop in order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

Amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On trademarks" (hereinafter referred to as "Law") and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1538-N of 18 November 2010 are also envisaged to solve the issues having arisen in practice.

The necessity to make amendments and supplements to the Law is also conditioned by bringing the provisions provided for by the Law into compliance with the provisions provided for by the Treaty "On the Eurasian Economic Union", as well as solving the issues identified in the practice of application of the provisions of the Law, regulating the procedural provisions, for which clear approaches need to be defined.

Legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".

Sub-point 10 of point 10 and sub-point 47 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

A strategy on protection of intellectual property rights of the Republic of Armenia was developed in 2011, actions under the strategy were envisaged in 2011-2013. Now the sector needs reforms. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a new strategy for development of the general IP sector — the objective of the 2023-2026 reforms in the system of IP rights is supporting the development of the science, economy and art in the Republic of Armenia, as well as enhancing the competitiveness of the Republic of Armenia in the global economy.

Many problematic provisions have arisen in the application of the Law, and the amendment to the Law necessitates clarifications for their application.

In addition, the relevant amendment derives also from the necessity of bringing into compliance with the provisions provided for by the Treaty "On the Eurasian Economic Union".

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The main directions of the strategy will be the following:

- Institutional reforms (including IP law enforcement actions)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing mechanisms for more effective protection of rights • raising awareness of IPR (developing educational programmes, training of employees of state bodies responsible for the IP law enforcement, preparing specialists). • effectively collecting the author's remuneration prescribed by law and distributing among authors. <p>As a result of making amendments and supplements to the Law, many provisions of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On trademarks" will be brought into compliance with the provisions provided for by the Treaty "On the Eurasian Economic Union".</p> <p>In addition, the adoption of the Law will improve the effectiveness of enforcement of the Law, ensure unambiguous application of the provisions prescribed thereby, as well as solutions to possible issues arising in practice.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to have more clarified, improved, completed legal acts, as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • institutional reform in the intellectual property; • improved IP sector; • informed society in the IP sector; • effective protection of the IP rights; • ensuring development of the economy; • introducing educational programmes on intellectual property in the education system.
4.	<p><i>The implementation of the objective "4. Developing small and medium-sized enterprises, SME contribution to the GDP — 55%" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to ensuring the following targets and target results (at least of indicators of 2025) of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":</i></p> <p>1. Target Result 4.2 of Action 4, indicator 4.2.3 (page 43)</p> <p>2. Indicators of Target Result 14.2 of Action 14 completely (page 53)</p> <p><u>4.1. Approving the Concept Paper for Innovative Enterprises, elaborating and implementing programmes following the approval</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The elaboration of the Action is conditioned by the necessity to ensure the implementation of the state programme for support to SMEs prescribed by Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state support to small and medium-sized enterprises", Assignment of the Prime Minister of the</p>

Republic of Armenia No 02/08.2/29772-2021 of 31 August 2021 on fulfilling the election promises of the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan made to citizens during visits to the communities of the Republic of Armenia and during the election campaign (People from Yerevan to remote villages must have equal business opportunities) (4-17 June 2021), implementation of the action included in the Section “Development of small and medium-sized enterprises” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, in particular sub-point 1 of paragraph 4, as well as the actions /Developing and introducing by state support institutions a support toolkit aimed at introduction and application of the innovation/ of Part 2.1 of Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1334-L of 27 August 2020 /The 2020-2022 Action Plan deriving from the 2020-2024 Strategy for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises/.

At the same time, it should be mentioned that the necessity for implementation of the Action has arisen from the vision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to establish knowledge-based economy. Its objective is providing assistance so that inventions made and technologies developed by researches in the Republic of Armenia can turn into products and services which will improve the quality of life of people in the Republic of Armenia, as well as providing support by creating new jobs and scientific and innovation organisations, and making the Republic of Armenia more competitive in the global market. The necessity for the Action is conditioned also by the need to implement the Action provided for by point 2.4.2 of the 2020-2022 Action Plan of the 2020-2024 Strategy for development of small and medium-sized enterprises approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1443 of 27 August 2020, *i.e.* technical support (co-financing) to programmes for IT and digital transformation of SMEs through state support institutions.

Also, as a result of implementation of this Action, a unified business support centre will be opened, which will be implemented in two formats. The centre will be both multifunctional and will operate as an on-line platform. In the multifunctional centre a team of advisers and specialists will be established for guiding business processes (drawing up business plans, attracting grants), and a call centre will be opened. It will also serve as an office of simple solutions to make recommendations, simplify and improve business processes. An innovative, interactive and functional resource (an electronic platform) will be created on the on-line platform, establishing facilities to register the applications and be provided with services of maximum number without visiting the centre.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Attaching importance to the role of SME in the economic development of the Republic of Armenia, as well as taking into consideration the necessity to ensure the accessibility of state support to SMEs in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia (in the regions), establishing branches of "National Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship" SNCO (hereinafter referred to as "NCIE") is of vital importance, thus forming a network of marz branches thereof.

Also, the overwhelming majority of inventions and technologies originated in scientific and research institutions, universities and other scientific institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia never turn into final products, are never commercialised and applied. For the purpose of making the vision of having knowledge-based economy into reality it is necessary to solve this issue, encouraging that more innovations and technologies are designed in the country. They are, in their turn, turned into products and are commercialised.

The absence of a body operating for business consulting and support in the Republic of Armenia reduces the implementation of entrepreneurial activities and does not promote the development of small and medium-sized business. The existing bodies and institutions do not comply with the

present modern standards of the world, do not provide comprehensive information and render services for the business. These institutions have no systemic solutions for rendering of multi-functional services, as a remote office with representations in marzes, or up-to-date on-line platform with comprehensive and operational functionality for on-line development of different state services. For the purpose of promoting entrepreneurial activities and developing the business it is necessary to establish one business support centre both as a consulting and a guiding body which will be able to provide full information and guide different business programmes. In addition to the consulting functions and call centre, this body must have functions of providing state support to effectively regulate the granting of state subsidies to entrepreneurs.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- The business will be provided with state support tools, operating centres for the business and co-operation with the State will be established. The business centre will provide comprehensive consulting services. Technically equipped office infrastructures will also be established adjacent to the business centre. And real and innovative tools and transparent mechanisms for carrying out investment activities will be developed.
- It is recommended to establish an office for commercialisation of inventions and technologies (Technology Transfer Office) within the "National Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship" of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, which will help scientific institutions to commercialise innovations and technologies. The Office will be the link between the science and economy.
- At the unified multi-functional business support centre it will be possible to receive support for registering a company, conducting audit in the company, learn about state support measures, receive information on marketing and market promotion services, as well as opportunities to obtain grants. At the unified multi-functional business support centre it will be possible to receive advice on crediting, taxation, accounting, as well as receive additional services for maintaining the company. At the same time, the business will be provided with real state support tools, operating mechanisms for co-operation between the business and the State will be established.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

It is envisaged to have SME support centres for modern logistics support, which will serve as a SME consultation centre, where business incubation programmes will be implemented, trainings will be conducted, convenient conditions for office lease for newly established or small companies will be available. There will be certain benefits for resident innovative companies.

And it is expected that as a result of operation of the office for commercialisation of inventions and technologies, those scientific institutions will have an increased level of understanding of the whole process of commercialisation of inventions and technologies, and a new culture will be created in those institutions. Scientific institutions will clarify all the legislative issues related to the intellectual property, and employment contracts will clarify all the legal norms. Scientific institutions will start to more actively conduct applied research. The number of inventions made and technologies developed will increase. The number of applications for registering their intellectual property will increase. A part of them will be commercialised and will enter the economy of the Republic of Armenia, as a result of which new scientific and innovation companies will be established. A part of them will license foreign companies and ensure relevant investments for the economy of the Republic of Armenia. As a result of commercialisation of inventions and technologies, scientific institutions will receive alternative financing, and new scientific and research programmes will increase, and the established new

	<p>scientific and innovation companies will promote the development of the knowledge-based economy in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>All those measures will contribute to the establishment of the business ecosystem in the Republic of Armenia, awareness-raising of the public and investors of the business opportunities in the Republic of Armenia, favourable conditions for simplification of the business, elimination of obstacles and development of entrepreneurship will be created. The actual tools for establishing operating mechanisms for state business support and co-operation between the business and the State will bring the Armenian business to new markets and increase their level. The electronic platform "Am.business" will create conditions for automation and on-line registration of many state services for the business.</p> <p>The implementation of this programme will create conditions to receive support for registering companies, conducting the audit and accounting of companies, as well as for state support opportunities.</p> <p>As outcome indicators the following are envisaged:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-equipping the centre in every marz. The centre will have business consulting services, technology transfer offices, will implement business incubation programmes, hold trainings, convenient conditions for office lease for newly-established and small companies. The branches of the centre will contribute to the creation of new non-agricultural jobs. 2. After the re-equipment of each NCIE, annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 500 women entrepreneurs (80% — outside Yerevan) will become beneficiaries of the SME incubation programme; - support to 500 SME entities, of which support to at least 20 SMEs developing a science-driven product; - 150 trainings; - registration of 10 new resident companies; - commercialisation or localisation of 10 inventions. 3. Continuously improving the positions in the innovation index by 3 positions annually, developing the scientific-research capacities of the business. 4. Establishing 3 new innovative/scientific-research clusters. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having a national EdTech platform that the private sector will also be the beneficiary thereof. Conduct 10.000 trainings per year, with a wide marz distribution. 2. Having support/consultation and training centres for business ideas and activities. Conducting consultation for 500 businesses per year. 3. Establishing 1 new educational institution per year, <i>i.e.</i> handicraft, secondary vocational and other, jointly with successful private/non-formal education institutions to fill the gap of specialists required by the business. Providing jobs to at least 150 new specialists annually.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>4.2.Capacity-building of the private sector</u></p>

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by Assignment of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 02/08.2/29772-2021 of 31 August 2021 on fulfilling the election promises made to the citizens during the visits paid by the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to the communities of the Republic of Armenia and during the election campaign (4-17 June 2021) (Our strategic perception of the economy is that it must be knowledge-based, starting from the agriculture to the production, they must be based on knowledge and competence, the culmination of which must be the improvement of work productivity), the provisions stipulated by paragraph 3 of the part “Development of small and medium-sized enterprises” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At the current stage of development of the science and technology remote learning is widespread in the lifelong education, which provides interested persons with the opportunities to receive relevant education on-line or participate in the training courses at places and at the hours convenient to them.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The study of the current situation has made it clear that in the current economic situation the development of skills, necessity to apply modern business management approaches and innovative product is undeniable from the point of view of ensuring effective, competitive and stable economy management. Preparing specialists by engaging specialists having international high qualification.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

1. Having a national EdTech platform that the private sector will also be the beneficiary thereof. Conduct 10.000 trainings per year, with a wide marz distribution
2. Having support/consultation and training centres for business ideas and activities. Conduct consultation for 500 businesses per year.
3. Establishing 1 new educational institution per year, *i.e.* handicraft, secondary vocational and other, jointly with successful private/non-formal education institutions to fill the gap of specialists required by the business. Providing jobs to at least 150 new specialists annually.

4.3. Approving and implementing a state programme for public-private dialogue

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action derives from point 240.2 of the Action Plan ensuring the implementation of the 2019-2023 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 650-L of 16 May 2019 /As a result of change of the format and composition of the Committee and Sub-Committee for Development of SME, the Committee and Sub-Committee will serve as a platform also for identifying the opportunities of co-operation between SME and large organisations and enhancing them/, Annex 4.1 /Establishing and applying mechanisms for Private-Public dialogue/ approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1443-L of 27 August 2020 /The 2020-2022 Action Plan deriving from the 2020-2024 Strategy for development of small and medium-sized enterprises/. By the need to implement sub-point 1

of paragraph 5 and the next-to-the-last sub-point of the last paragraph of the part “Development of small and medium-sized enterprises” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Armenia has several economic platforms for the public-private dialogue. They sometimes include representatives of the same sectoral associations, state administration system; moreover, they are often members of several similar platforms simultaneously. Although the scope of operation of the mentioned platforms include the function of reforms in the business and investment environment, the functions are not performed effectively, as they are co-ordinated, and there are no regulations for settlement of issues, provided in the common format.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to establish a co-ordinated high-level platform for the dialogue between the Government, local business community and international investors and international financial organisations, within the framework of which regulations for establishing mutually beneficial, non-discriminatory, transparent and constructive business environment will be developed, which will significantly expand the opportunities of investments and employment.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The following is envisaged to have as a result:

- Approve a new operations procedure for the SPD
- Have an SPD council in all priority sectors
- Organise at least 1 high-level workshop for public-private dialogue per year

4.4 Ensuring availability of finances, approving the Concept Paper for the SME Investment Fund and Development Bank, and implementing it where approved

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action derives from Assignment of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 02/08.2/29772-2021 of 31 August 2021 (On fulfilling the election promises made to the citizens during the visits paid by the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to the communities of the Republic of Armenia and during the election campaign (4-17 June 2021) (We have a special programme for the business activity of women)) and is conditioned by the need to implement the points of the 2020-2022 Action Plan deriving from the 2020-2024 Strategy for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1443-L of 27 August 2020; in particular of the Section “Increasing the availability of financial resources” of the Programme; from the need to implement the sub-point of point 4 of paragraph 4 of the part “Development of small and medium-sized enterprises” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia; by the need to implement Action 1.1 prescribing the part “Enhancing the effectiveness of toolkit and coverage of the state support to small and medium-sized enterprises”, Action 2.5 of the Section “Development of entrepreneurial culture”. The main objective of the Action is encouraging the

entrepreneurial activity and proactivity of women in the field of economic development of the Republic of Armenia, adequately assess and support the achievements of businesswomen in different sectors of the economy.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

1. In the context of the policy for ensuring stable economic growth in the Republic of Armenia, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (hereinafter referred to as “SME”) is designated to ensure the stability of the economic growth of the country, introducing a new innovative direction in and flexibility to the economy.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The implementation of the Action envisages to:

- (1) promote the development of SME in the country through direct state support mechanisms (tools);
- (2) contribute to the economic development and overcoming of disproportionalities of the country, particularly its remote and borderline settlements, through development of SME;
- (3) contribute to the diversification of the economy of the country and ensure increase of the level of employment and self-employment through development of SME;
- (4) diversify the scope aimed at state support for SME entities, also ensure the purposefulness and addressability of the state support provided to the SME.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The implementation of the Action is expected to:

1. Establish a SME Investment Fund and Development Bank, as a result whereof 300 SMEs will receive support per year.
2. Provide financial support to 2000 SMEs per year within the scope of the programmes for support to beginner and operating SMEs, by targeting women and giving priority to the sectors with the largest potential for growth.
3. Engage 3 new investment funds in the capital market, accompanied by necessary reforms.
4. Mobilise the retail investment resource of the Diaspora within the scope of the study of the demand for bonds of the Diaspora provided for by “The programme for the development of the capital market” approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1202-L of 16 July 2020.

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| 5. | <p><i>The fulfilment of the objective “5. Promoting export. Export of goods and services/GDP — 60%” of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to ensuring the following targets and target results of “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050”:</i></p> <p><i>1. Target Result 7.3 of Action 7, Indicators 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 (page 46)</i></p> |
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2. Target Result 15.2 of Action 15, Indicator 15.2.3 (page 46)

5.1. Elaborating and implementing the Export Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the roadmap attached

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The objective of elaboration of the Export Strategy and the road map attached is contributing to the increase of the volumes of export from the Republic of Armenia, increase of the competitiveness of the domestic product, private proactivity, introduction of more manufacturing technologies and adoption of innovative ideas in the domestic and international target markets.

The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Subsection “2.2. Sustainable development and green economy”, as well as the provisions of the part “Foreign economic policy and export promotion” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The development of the export policy is related to the effective implementation of reforms undertaken, as well as the need to introduce the main areas of reforms and the outcomes expected therefrom, measurable indicators of the progress of acquisition. **Solutions recommended for the existing issues**

Within the framework of development of the export policy it is expected to form new driving sectors for the economic growth, based on the development of the export sectors and those having the potential for export.

3. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The successful implementation of the export strategy will promote the creation of favourable conditions for economic entities carrying out foreign economic activities.

5.2 Implementing 2021-2026 Actions of the Programme for Promoting Investments and Export of the Republic of Armenia for state support to industry aimed at export Approving the Order of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2023 Actions of the Programme for Promoting Investments and Export"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the provisions of the Subsection “2.1 Manufacturing industry” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as by the need to implement the provisions of Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 49 of 15 December 2011 “On approving the Strategy for industrial policy aimed at export of the Republic of Armenia”. The objective of implementation of the Action is promoting the export through state support and enhancing the competitiveness of local organisations, which implies expanding the export opportunities of industrial sectors through support tools provided to companies. The state support toolkit is ongoing, the action is implemented regularly and the budget for the implementation of the action is stipulated in the State Budget of each year. For this purpose, it is recommended to continue the state support activities for 2021-2026 according to the envisaged

toolkit.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The strategy for industrial policy aimed at export of the Republic of Armenia is focused on forming and developing new driving areas for the economic growth, based on the development of sectors currently exporting and having the potential for export. Presently, there are certain issues that hinder the development of the sector, for example small domestic market, insufficient level of development of infrastructures, logistic issues, low level of productivity. In this case, it quite often becomes difficult to achieve the pre-determined indicators, boosting exports, supporting access to markets of third countries.

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned issues, the main emphasis of development must be made on the promotion and development of the export.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of solving the existing issues the state support must be provided in the following directions:

- participation in and/or organisation of business conferences (forums), presentations, as well as other similar events;
- organisation and implementation of measures for raising the awareness of and forming consumer opinion (CR) on Armenian products in a foreign state and/or Armenia;
- organisation of and ensuring of participation in exhibitions in a foreign state and (or) Armenia;

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

Providing state support aimed at export, particularly, organising exhibitions and business forums, promoting and increasing recognisability of local products, engaging distributors and potential buyers.

5.3. Elaborating and implementing programmes for compensation for expenses for transportation of cargo by ferry, plane and other means of transport for the purpose of export from/import into the territory of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by minimising the impediments to the export of local products. The objective of the Action is ensuring an alternative opportunity for exporters to carry out uninterrupted transportation of cargoes when Lars is closed, and which, however, does not result in increase in expenses.

The Action derives also from the provisions of the Subsection “2.1 Manufacturing Industry” of the Section “2. Economy” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

	<p>The legislative grounds for elaboration of the envisaged documents – point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N “On the structure and activities of the Government”; sub-point 4 of point 10 and sub-points 10 and 20 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, during the closure of Lars the exporters do not have an opportunity to transport the cargoes by an alternative route, or the existing opportunity implies additional expenses, which results in the deterioration of competitiveness of goods.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issues it is envisaged to compensate the additional costs generated during the transportation of cargoes by an alternative route.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Organising the export in an uninterrupted manner.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>5.4. Submitting recommendations to competent bodies on the sector of customs and tariff, non-tariff regulation</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the development and co-ordination of actions implemented in the field of customs tariff and non-tariff regulation within the framework of co-operation with the EAEU, bringing into compliance with the standards of the EAEU. The objective of implementation of the Action is facilitating the export and import processes, ensuring favourable conditions for economic entities of the Republic of Armenia, enhancing the production capacities.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy", as well as the provisions of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are certain difficulties with application of the customs duties imposed on certain products, as well as non-tariff regulation measures for economic entities of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to conduct a study of fundamental issues regarding the application of rates of customs duties imposed on products considered to be sensitive for the Republic of Armenia, as well as the non-tariff regulation measures, and carry out activities to solve them. In particular, it is recommended to submit to the Eurasian Economic Commission recommendations in relation to products considered to be sensitive for the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia with a view to ensuring legal regulation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to ensure more favourable conditions for domestic producers and/or consumers with respect to many goods.</p>
	<p><u>5.5. Elaborating a policy for applying measures for protection of the domestic market and anti-dumping measures</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The objective of implementation of the Action is applying unified measures for the protection of the domestic market against goods of foreign countries which derives from the protection of producers of member states of the EAEU.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Section "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Section "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy", as well as the provisions of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The goods imported from third countries into the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union sometimes have lower price than the products produced by the economic entities of the member states of the EAEU. As a result, the producers of similar products of the member states of the EAEU suffer pecuniary damage in case the above-mentioned goods are imported into the Eurasian Economic Union.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issue the member states of the EAEU conduct a unified policy for applying measures for protection of the domestic market and anti-dumping measures.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is envisaged to prevent or eliminate the damage caused by economic entities of the third countries to the producers of the member states of the EAEU.</p>
6.	<p><i>The fulfilment of the objective "6. Expanding and deepening the international trade and economic co-operation" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to ensuring the following targets and target results (at least of indicators of 2025) "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":</i></p>

	<p>1. Target Result 7.3 of Action 7, Indicators 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 (page 46)</p> <p>2. Target Result 15.2 of Action 15, Indicator 15.2.3 (page 46)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>6.1. Implementing the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, ensuring the Armenia-EU trade and economic co-operation</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the agreements and obligations stipulated by the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the provisions of sub-point 5 of paragraph 1 of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The objective of the Action is expanding and deepening the Armenia-EU trade and economic co-operation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The main provisions of the EU-Armenia CEPA are provisionally in force from 1 June 2018. The Agreement fully entered into force from 1 March 2021. The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia is the co-ordinating body for the implementation of the part "Trade and trade-related matters" of the Agreement. The Agreement envisages to each year hold sessions of the EU-Armenia Partnership Committee in Trade, as well as relevant sub-committees, during which the progress of implementation of the provisions and agreements stipulated under the EU-Armenia CEPA are discussed, 12 roadmaps under the part "Trade and trade-related matters" are discussed and reviewed.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The process of implementation of the part "Trade and trade-related matters" of the EU-Armenia CEPA will be co-ordinated, the sessions of the EU-Armenia Partnership Committee in Trade, as well as relevant sub-committees will be organised, the agreements reached following the sessions will be implemented, 12 sectoral roadmaps will be reviewed, the opportunities for deepening the Armenia-EU trade and economic co-operation will be studied and discussed with the EU side.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The holding of the sessions of EU-Armenia Partnership Committee in Trade, as well as relevant sub-committees once a year, the implementation of the provisions and agreements stipulated in the part "Trade and trade-related matters" of the EU-Armenia CEPA and 12 sectoral roadmaps will be ensured.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>6.2. Ensuring bilateral and multilateral co-operation within the scope of the EU Eastern Partnership, implementing programmes funded by the EU</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the provisions of sub-point 4 of the Subsection "1. Security and foreign policy" and sub-</p>

	<p>point 6 of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and the provisions of the EU document "Recovery, Resilience and Reform: post-2020 priorities for an Eastern Partnership". The objective of the Action is expanding the bilateral and multilateral co-operation within the scope of the EU Eastern Partnership.</p> <p>The selection and implementation of programmes within the framework of the Action depends on the fixing of primary programmes by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, negotiations with the European side, international organisations that provide credit and grant funds, as well as possible allocations from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, the timetable for the implementation of the EaP platform and panels is not clear.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia co-ordinates the activities of the Platform "Economic integration and alignment with EU policy" of the multi-lateral co-operation of the EU Eastern Partnership and the panels operating thereunder, ensures the participation in the discussions held and the programmes implemented and introduction of positions of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, within the framework of the document "Recovery, Resilience and Reform: post-2020 priorities for an Eastern Partnership", the EU has designated a financial assistance package, the co-ordination of the implementation of sectoral programmes with respect to the directions stipulated by Benchmark 1 indicated under which is ensured by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Active participation in the activities and meeting of the Economic Platform of the multi-lateral co-operation of the EU Eastern Partnership and panels thereunder, current joint programmes for the bilateral and multi-lateral co-operation within the scope of the Eastern Partnership will be ensured, introducing and defending the positions of the Armenian side. The co-operation within the scope of programmes under the contribution in the amount of EUR 2,6 billion to be provided to Armenia through financial instruments within the scope of the EU Eastern Partnership, the development and formation of sectoral programmes proposed by the Ministry of Economy within the scope of the benchmark "Sustainable, innovative and competitive economy – direct support to 30,000 SMEs", the combination of programmes introduced by other stakeholders, the agreeing of the whole package with the European side and the implementation of the approved programmes will be ensured.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>It is expected to have targeted introduction of the results of initiatives deemed to be priority for Armenia under the EU Eastern Partnership and the current programmes in the economy of the Republic of Armenia, implementation of sectoral programmes envisaged by the EU support package, which will contribute to the availability of funds of SMEs, promotion of their activities through capital investments, improvement of the business and investment environment, promotion of export-oriented product, updating of programmes for development of the sector of agriculture, improvement of the quality infrastructure, enhancement of capacities of secondary vocational education, as well as development of the green economy.</p>
	<p><u>6.3 Enhancing and expanding the co-operation with the WHO, fulfilling the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia within the scope</u></p>

of the membership of the WHO

1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action:

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the provisions of sub-point 7 of paragraph 1 of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the provisions stipulated by WHO agreements. The objective of implementation of the Action is fulfilling the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia within the scope of the membership of the WHO, as well as deepening and expanding the co-operation with the WHO.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the provisions of the WHO agreements, due to the membership of the EAEU, the Republic of Armenia has, since 2015, started the process of compensation negotiations for changing the obligations of fixed marginal rates of customs duties of the Republic of Armenia at the WTO. 11 member states of the WHO are involved in the negotiation process. Bilateral negotiations are conducted with those states to reach agreement on providing relevant compensation. At the present moment, negotiations are conducted specifically with the EU and the USA.

The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia is also the national focal point for notifications of the Republic of Armenia and ensures, under the WHO agreements, provision to the WHO Secretariat of relevant sectoral notifications on changes and developments in the legislative and legal framework of the Republic of Armenia, and on regulations, measures and procedures applied.

Regular activities for deepening the co-operation with the WHO are carried out, including through the participation in bilateral and multi-lateral multi-sectoral negotiations conducted within the framework of the WHO processes and the WHO, to introduce the positions and protect the interests of the Republic of Armenia. Study of and monitoring over draft documents regulating the trade and economic legislative framework of the Republic of Armenia are also conducted to fulfil the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia within the scope of the membership of the WHO.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

The negotiations with all member states of the WHO involved in the process will be conducted and will continue, negotiation stages will be organised, compensation negotiation packages will be developed and elaborated, regular meetings of the negotiation group operating within the scope of the EAEU will be organised, the unified positions and compensation packages submitted to the member states of the WHO will be discussed and agreed within the scope of the EAEU.

The required notifications regarding different sectors regulating trade and economic relations of the Republic of Armenia will be elaborated, developed and summarised within the time limits and in the formats prescribed by the WHO agreements and their submission to the WHO Secretariat for the purpose of circulating them among the member states of the WHO will be ensured. The Action will be implemented in co-operation with the state administration bodies and agencies of the Republic of Armenia. Notifications on measures applied within the scope of the EAEU will also be submitted to the WHO. Study, analysis of notifications received from the member states of the WHO are also envisaged.

Participation in and monitoring over the bilateral and multi-lateral multi-sectoral negotiations conducted within the scope of the WHO will be ensured,

	<p>study of documents, declarations and other materials submitted by the WHO Secretariat will be conducted, recommendations and positions for the protection of trade and economic interests of the Republic of Armenia will be developed and submitted.</p> <p>Study of and monitoring over draft documents regulating the trade and economic legislative framework of the Republic of Armenia will be conducted for the purpose of ensuring the fulfilment of obligations assumed.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Stipulation of bilateral agreements with the member states of the WHO within the framework of compensation negotiations for changing the fixed marginal rates of customs duties of the Republic of Armenia at the WTO and formation of a new timetable of obligations of the rates of customs duties of the Republic of Armenia will be ensured.</p> <p>It is expected to prepare around 50 notifications relating to the trade sectoral policies of the Republic of Armenia and the measures applied, defined under the WTO agreements, and submit them to the WTO Secretariat.</p> <p>It is envisaged to study around 500 notifications on trade regulations of other members states of the WHO circulated through the WHO Secretariat and, where necessary, provide them to the interested bodies, as well as to study around 30 draft documents regulating the trade and economic legislative framework of the Republic of Armenia. The transparency and foreseeability of the trade policy of the Republic of Armenia will be ensured, which are important indicators in terms of ensuring attractive business and investment environment of the country, as well as increasing the market access.</p> <p>Participation in the processes, bilateral and multilateral sectoral negotiations taking place within the scope of the WTO and presentation and defence of the positions of the Republic of Armenia will be ensured.</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, the deepening and expansion of co-operation with the WHO, the proper fulfilment of obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia following the membership of the WHO, as well as those prescribed by the provisions of the WHO agreements will be ensured.</p>
	<p><u>6.4. Conditioned by the issues of the economic development of the Republic of Armenia, elaborating and implementing a policy for prohibition or quantitative limitation of export and/or import of certain goods, introducing a system of quota</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The objective of implementation of the Action is creating an opportunity to enjoy the benefits stipulated by free trade agreements for economic entities of the Republic of Armenia during the import from third countries to the Republic of Armenia and export from the Republic of Armenia, as well as protecting the interests of economic entities at the domestic market.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy", as well as the provisions of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the lack of opportunity for the economic entities of the Republic of Armenia to enjoy the benefits with respect to certain goods.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the existing issues it is recommended to introduce a system of quotation during the import into the Republic of Armenia and export from the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The outcome of the implementation of the Action is introducing a mechanism for quotation by applying the preferential rates with respect to a number of product types within the scope of the obligations deriving from the concluded agreements on free trade, as well as the agreement on membership of the EAEU.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>6.5. Expanding the trade and economic co-operation of preferential trade regimes with the participation of the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the expansion of the scope of trade and economic co-operation of preferential trade regimes with the participation of the Republic of Armenia, the toolkit for their application, co-operation with the member states of the EAEU and third countries. The objective of the implementation of the Action is ensuring the competitiveness of the domestic product within the scope of free trade agreements, as well as facilitating the procedures for entering new markets.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Section "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy", the provisions of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>To date, no preferential trade regimes have been applied in the mutual trade with the above-mentioned countries. The Republic of Armenia is the party informally initiating the conclusion of the free trade agreement with Egypt.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to conclude free trade agreements with many third countries within the scope of co-operation with the EAEU.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p>

	<p>The outcome of implementation of the Action is expanding access to the countries considered to be parties to free trade agreements under preferential conditions.</p>
	<p><u>6.6. Identifying the obstacles and barriers to the mutual trade within the scope of the co-operation with the EAEU, as well as with third countries, and submitting recommendations for their elimination</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the protection of the domestic market within the scope of co-operation with the Eurasian Economic Union. The objective of implementation of the Action is collecting the obstacles to the mutual trade presented by economic entities of the Republic of Armenia and developing mechanisms for solving them. The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Section "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy", as well as the provisions of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There are many obstacles to and restrictions on free movement of goods and services in the mutual trade within the scope of co-operation with the EAEU, and third countries.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to maintain a register of obstacles and creating a roadmap for elimination of obstacles to the mutual trade within the scope of co-operation with the EAEU, and third countries, as well as ensuring the legal regulation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The outcome of implementation of the Action is eliminating the restrictions in the mutual trade, ensuring the free movement of goods and services.</p>
	<p><u>6.7. Elaborating and implementing a roadmap for the development of trade relations of the Republic of Armenia and other countries</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the conduct of studies of the countries of interest to the Republic of Armenia from the point of view of trade, and development of relevant recommendations for each country based on the findings. The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy", as well as the provisions of the part "Foreign economic policy and export promotion" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the economic entities of the Republic of Armenia are not sufficiently informed of the countries of interest to the Republic of Armenia from the point of view of trade, as a result of which the potential of export of the Republic of Armenia is not sufficiently fulfilled.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to make relevant analyses with respect to the countries of interest from the point of view of trade, based on which it will be possible to prepare — for each country — lists of goods having potential for export.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The outcome of implementation of the Action is applying the toolkit for export promotion, ensuring the increase of export volumes.</p>
7	<p><i>The fulfilment of the objective "7. Developing the industry by directing financial resources in the amount of 80 billion to the sector. Manufacturing industry/GDP — 15%; increasing the economic complexity index from -0.3 to 0.1" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to ensuring the following targets and target results (at least of indicators of 2025) of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":</i></p> <p><i>1. All indicators of Action 7 (page 46)</i></p> <p><u>7.1. Developing and implementing a concept paper for five priority sectors for the development of the industry, approving the strategies for the priority sectors. Developing and implementing a concept paper for five priority sectors (1. Jewellery and diamond-making; 2. Light industry (food, textile, etc.); 3. Heavy industry (mountain metallurgy, chemistry); 4. Machinery manufacturing (devices, machines, solar technologies); 5. Pharmacy), approving the strategies for the priority sectors</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Based on the imperatives for raising the level of economic competitiveness and ensuring ongoing economic growth, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has undertaken implementation of an active industrial policy that will be targeted at expansion of the exportable sector of the economy through opening up and effective fulfilment of the potential for export. In this respect, the necessity has arisen for the initial stage to select the priority sectors by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as a result of which the strategies for the sectoral development will be approved and the key projects will be implemented by applying the mechanisms and toolkits selected accordingly. The objective of the Action is ensuring — by defining the priority sectors for development of the industry — the development of highly productive, competitive, highly exportable sub-sectors having great potential for export.</p> <p>The Action derives also from the provisions of sub-points 4 and 5 of paragraph 7 of the Subsection "2.1 Manufacturing industry" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

Legislative grounds for elaboration of envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government"; sub-point 5 of point 10 and sub-point 18 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, there are certain sectors (sub-sectors) in the structure of the industry of the Republic of Armenia that are more developed and/or have quite great potential to become the main engine of development of the industry and the economy in general. These are 1. Jewellery and diamond-making; 2. Light industry (food, textile, etc.); 3. Heavy industry (mountain metallurgy, chemistry);

4. Machinery manufacturing (devices, machines, solar technologies); 5. Pharmacy. However, the process of development of the mentioned sectors at a greater pace may not be conducted without active sponsorship by the State and application of the toolkit for development.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Among the sectors of the industry that are competitive and have great potential for development, priority will be given to the sectors that are already competitive in the international markets. The targeting of sectors having the potential of competitiveness in the future will be carried out based on relevant additional in-depth studies. For each of the above-mentioned sectors, a sector-specific development plan will be drafted, as a result of which the priority sectors will be grouped under a single agenda, the toolkit for government support will help to significantly increase international competitiveness of economic entities, as well as conditions will be created for the growth of international competitiveness of manufacturing industry in Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Defining priority sectors having a high potential and promoting them by applying the state toolkit for the purpose of developing the industry

7.2 Elaborating and implementing a programme for the toolkit of financial, information and other support for the purpose of increasing the technical equipment of enterprises of the sector of manufacturing industry and acquiring modern equipment

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by contribution to increasing the productivity in the local economy. The objective of the Action is contributing to increasing the level of productivity in the sectors of economy of the Republic of Armenia, by ensuring an indicator above average at a global level.

The Action derives also from the provisions of Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Currently, there is no need for legal acts. It is planned to submit a summary report every year regarding the support toolkit and information support mechanisms that already exist.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

	<p>Currently, with respect to the development of the economy the low level of productivity in almost all sectors is concerning, which leads to drop in the competitiveness of products and services.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned issues it is envisaged to develop a comprehensive programme, indicate the issues that lead to decrease in productivity, and implement actions provided for by that programme.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the level of productivity. Enterprises of the sector of manufacturing industry will get the opportunity to increase the technical equipment and use the toolkit for support implemented by the State for the purpose of contributing to the acquisition of modern equipment.</p>
	<p><u>7.4. Developing and implementing a programme for support mechanisms and toolkits for productions ensuring economic complexity</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>A technical error occurred regarding the measure mentioned in the column "Time period" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1902-L of 18 November 2021. The column was filled in by adding the exact time period for the implementation of the Action.</p>
	<p><u>7.4. Developing and implementing a programme for support mechanisms and toolkits for productions ensuring economic complexity, approving the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the programme for support mechanisms and toolkits for productions ensuring economic complexity"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the level of economic complexity of Armenia is directly related to the technological upgrading of enterprises, as well as entry into new international markets and strengthening of the existing positions, as well as ensuring of availability of high-quality human resources. As the potential for long-term economic growth is significantly conditioned by the level of economic complexity, the Action pursues an aim to essentially increase the economic complexity of Armenia.</p> <p>The Action derives also from the provisions of paragraph 4, sub-point 4 of paragraph 4, sub-point 2 of paragraph 6 of the Subsection "2.1 Manufacturing industry" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>During the election campaign in Avan Community the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has stated that "the industrial cycle must be elongated to the extent possible".</p> <p>Legislative grounds for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government"; sub-point 5 of point 10 and sub-point 18 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Although it has small economy, Armenia can be competitive in international markets by releasing goods and services with economic complexity and high added value. However, between 2000 and 2018, in terms of complexity around the world, Armenia dropped from the 32nd position and now it is in the 79th position, which means that the share of ready-made products, machine and equipments and technologically complex products in the exportable sector of our economy essentially declined in the post-revolutionary period.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure the entry of companies creating products with high added value to the market of the Republic of Armenia, which will provide an opportunity to import new knowledge and skills, create high-value products by applying modern technologies and introducing them in the production processes and increase the share of productive sector in the export basket. This is possible through tax/customs benefits and relevant support toolkits.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Bringing the economic complexity indicator from -0.39 to 0.1 points in the medium-term perspective and creating grounds for being classified among the countries with high economic complexity within 10 years. The economic complexity indicator of exported goods will exceed the average indicator of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p><u>7.5. Developing the light industry and creative sectors, approving the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Strategy for development of the light industry and creative sectors"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Based on the imperatives for raising the level of economic competitiveness and ensuring ongoing economic growth, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has undertaken implementation of an active industrial, including light industrial policy that will be targeted at the expansion of the exportable sector of the economy through opening up and effective fulfilment of the potential for export. In this respect, for the initial stage necessity has arisen for the Government of the Republic of Armenia to approve the strategies for the sectoral development and selected relevant mechanisms and toolkits, through the application of which key projects will be implemented. The objective of the Action is ensuring — by defining the priority sectors for development of the industry— the development of highly productive, competitive, highly exportable sub-sectors having great potential for export. Developing and implementing the strategy for development of the light industry and the action plan deriving therefrom.</p> <p>The Action derives also from the provisions of sub-points 1 and 4 of paragraph 5, sub-points 1 and 7 of paragraph 6 of the Subsection "2.1 Manufacturing industry" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are certain sectors (sub-sectors) in the structure of the industry of the Republic of Armenia that are more developed and/or have quite great potential to become the main engine of development of the industry and the economy in general. These include the light industry (textile and</p>

	<p>clothing manufacture). However, the process of development of the sector at a greater pace may not be conducted without the active sponsorship by the State and application of toolkit for development.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Among the sectors of the industry that are competitive and have great potential of development priority will be given to the sectors that are already competitive in the international markets. The targeting of sectors having the potential of competitiveness in the future will be carried out based on relevant additional in-depth studies. In the context of the above-mentioned a sectoral development plan is necessary, as a result of which the sector support toolkit will significantly increase international competitiveness of economic entities, as well as conditions will be created for the growth of international competitiveness of manufacturing industry in Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The implementation of the Action envisages development and implementation of the strategy for development of the light industry of Armenia and action plan deriving therefrom. Establishing one cluster for the light industry and creative sector each, which will build for economic entities of the sector accessibility to the infrastructure necessary for economic activities.</p>
8.	<p><i>The fulfilment of the objective "8. Developing green and sustainable economy. Increasing the share of renewable energy in the electricity production to 50%, increasing the share of electric motor vehicles to 10%" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the achievement of the following targets and target results (at least of indicators of 2025) of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":</i></p> <p>1. All indicators of Target Result 8.3 of Action 8 (page 47)</p> <p>2. All indicators of Target Result 13.2 of Action 13 (page 52)</p> <p><u>8.1. Elaborating a strategy for development of green and sustainable economy and implementing it where approved</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the full Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the Section "2. Economy" and the priority direction "Development and implementation of a policy aimed at promoting the long-term goal for green economy and sustainable development" of the Section "4.10 Environmental protection" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>Necessity for comprehensive and common action plan aimed at transitioning to the green economy, as well as development of the framework of relevant legal regulations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to conduct a study on ways of development and continuous improvement of the green and sustainable economy, identifying, assessing the existing challenges and priorities, as well as green investment needs and pre-determining the opportunities.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The strategy will clearly reflect the directions of development of the green and sustainable economy and the scope of envisaged actions, as well as the mechanisms for fulfilment of long-term objectives for promotion and sustainable development of the green economy. Developing solar technologies, promoting the production thereof. Approving and implementing the roadmap for development of the green and sustainable economy. Promoting the release of carbon-free products, approving the relevant legal acts, where necessary.</p>
	<p><u>8.2. Developing technologies for solar energy, promoting their production. Developing relevant legal acts, where necessary</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the full Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>The Actions to be implemented per years were missing in the column "Expected outcome" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1902-L of 18 November 2021. The column was filled in by adding the expected outcome per years.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Envisaging a comprehensive and common action plan aimed at development of technologies for the solar energy and promotion of their production, as well as the framework of relevant legal regulations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Promoting — through development of technologies for the solar energy — the production of solar energy by expanding the share of green energy in the overall production.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Forming relevant legislative framework for the purpose of developing the solar industry and promoting the sector.</p>

	<p><u>8.3. Implementing a programme for introduction of electromobiles and electric means of transport and related infrastructures</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the full Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In the sector of road transport of the Republic of Armenia the use of natural gas still prevails in the structure of fuel consumption, which, according to the analysis of statistical data and expert analysis, constituted 81 per cent of the overall consumption of the fuel in the road transport. In addition, the share of electric means of transport, as well as small electric means of transport in the number of all means of transport registered in the Republic of Armenia is very small.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Envisaging relevant policy and legislative reforms for green planning and engaging investments, innovative technologies and application of business models. It is necessary to develop and apply additional incentives and procedures to ensure the development of electric means of transport in Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Elaborating and implementing a roadmap for developing electromobiles and electric means of transport and related infrastructures, where the relevant action plan will be clearly outlined.</p>
	<p><u>8.4. Creating pre-conditions for maintaining natural resources longer in the economic cycle. Elaborating and approving a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Concept Paper for creating pre-conditions for maintaining natural resources longer in the economic cycle"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the full Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Primary products of the sector of mining industry prevail in the structure of export of the Republic of Armenia. Thus, the potential for creating added value in the current production cycle is not fulfilled fully in the Republic of Armenia. Therefore, it is necessary to create relevant pre-conditions for</p>

	<p>organising the production of products for intermediate or final consumption through processing of natural resources.</p> <p>1.2.Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, more effective management of natural resources and clean production in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Elaborating the Concept Paper and revealing economic benefits.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>8.5 Developing green hydrogen production</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the full Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the Section "2. Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents is point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the structure and activities of the Government " No HO-253-N.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the framework of the commitment to green and sustainable economic development in the Republic of Armenia, as well as the commitment undertaken to reduce carbon emissions, it is also planned to promote the production of green hydrogen, which is aimed at increasing the share of green energy in the overall production. This innovative process of renewable energy production will contribute to the production of electricity without CO2 emissions.</p> <p>1.2.Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>With the implementation of the recommended Action, it is planned to form prerequisites and promote, to a possible extent, the production of green hydrogen in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Promotion of green hydrogen production will contribute to the provision of sustainable energy, large-scale introduction and application of green technologies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8.6 Developing and approving green taxonomy</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the full Subsection "2.2 Sustainable development and green economy" of the Section "2.</p>

	<p>Economy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents is point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the structure and activities of the Government" No HO-253-N.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the framework of green taxonomy is missing in the Republic of Armenia, while the development of green taxonomy is attached importance in the context of the development of a green and sustainable economy, which has a key role from the point of view of applying the policy for transition to green economy and expanding the green finances. The aim of development and adoption of green taxonomy in the Republic of Armenia is to group the sectors and activity types related to the green economy and to define policy directions according to sectors.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>With the implementation of the recommended action, it is planned to develop and adopt one common and unified system of classifications for the types of economic activities, which will significantly help the policymakers, investors, representatives of the business community to make practical considerations and appropriate decisions regarding the green and sustainable economy.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The adoption of the green taxonomy will greatly support the planning of green transformation, will contribute to the formation of the environment for the implementation of "green" investments, the expansion of the scope of co-operation with development partners and the financing of the green economy, as well as it will help the investors and companies to make informed investment decisions regarding the directions of sustainable economic activities.</p>
9	<p><i>The fulfilment of the objective "9. Developing the agriculture and increasing the productivity. GAO — AMD 1.4 trillion, Uncultivated arable lands < 120 thousand ha" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the achievement of the following targets and target results (at least of indicators of 2025) of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":</i></p> <p>1. Indicators of Target Result 10.1 of Action 10 completely (page 49)</p> <p>2. Target Result 7.3 of Action 7, Indicator 7.3.2 (page 46)</p> <p><u>9.1. "Implementing the 2020-2030 Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for Main Areas Ensuring Economic Development of the Sector of Agriculture"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (Subsection "2.4 Agriculture" fully) approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as the requirements of Decision of</p>

the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1886-L of 19 December 2019 "On approving the 2020-2030 Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for Main Areas Ensuring Economic Development of the Sector of Agriculture and the 2020-2022 Action Plan for Implementation of the 2020-2030 Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for Main Areas Ensuring Economic Development of the Sector of Agriculture".

The main objective of the Action is ensuring the performance of target indicators specified in the 2020-2030 Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for Main Areas Ensuring Economic Development of the Sector of Agriculture, as a result of which in the coming ten years we will have small and medium-sized economic entities producing high-quality and competitive agricultural products, happy and prosperous rural population living in harmony with the environment.

With respect to all Actions 9.1-9.8 of introduced Objective 9: During the election campaign the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has addressed the necessity for development of the agriculture (intensive horticulture, greenhouse facilities, drip irrigation, non-interest bearing credit for agriculture, etc.)

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The agriculture is one of key sectors of economy of the Republic of Armenia. It has several competitive privileges, including the history of the country, involvement in economic integration processes, which allows to enter the large market of the European Economic Union under preferential conditions. As a privilege it must be indicated also the small distance between rural and urban settlements, long duration of vegetation of high-value agricultural crops, agroclimatological zones favourable for growing forward crop, rich agricultural heritage and most importantly, favourable ecological conditions, *i.e.* high-quality water and highlands, which ensure tastier agricultural products.

On the other hand, the surface area of uncultivated lands and prevalence of small land plots slow down the agricultural development and hinder the promotion of production and engagement of investments. Due to the geographical position of Armenia and regional geopolitics, limited trade routes and great transportation costs the rural households enter the foreign market with difficulty. At rural settlements the level of education is low, engagement and employment opportunities are limited. The level of collective resistance to challenges and cooperation is also low.

In the sector of agriculture the low level of investments and technical barriers, *i.e.* the low level of mechanisation and modern irrigation system, underdeveloped system of agricultural consultation, limited access to quality infrastructures, *i.e.* cold storage and warehousing facilities, means of transport, low level of application of food safety and phytosanitary standards and monitoring thereof, limited availability of finances and lack of human resources.

The vision of development of the sector of agriculture for the coming 10 years is to have agriculture that develops sustainably, is innovative, creates added value, cares for natural resources and is in harmony with the environment, produces ecologically safe products and guarantees the well-being of people living in the village.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of solving the most important issues in the sector of agriculture and rural settlements the Government seeks to apply a co-ordinated

	<p>approach for effective use of resources and partnership. The strategy focuses on increasing the effectiveness of agriculture, improving the level of food safety, introducing modern technologies, increasing the volumes of export and increasing the income of all actors of the value chain, namely small trade-based rural households, producing groups, processors and exporters. The above-mentioned are seven strategic priorities of the sector of agriculture.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Strategy, it is expected to ensure the specified main target indicators, <i>i.e.</i> increasing the gross agricultural output of the agriculture to about AMD 1,4 trillion, reducing the number of rural households to 280,000, increasing the value generated by 1 rural household per year to about AMD 4.5 million, making about 75 % of arable lands cultivable, doubling the volume of export of agro-food products.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>9.2 Promoting the development of the crop production branch</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-points 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 of paragraph 2, Subsection “2.4 Agriculture”).</p> <p>Main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - state support to the cultivation of grapes by modern technologies, founding of intensive fruit gardens, berry fields, non-traditional high-value crops, as well as the introduction of modern irrigation systems and anti-hail protection networks; - regulating the relations pertaining to the production, reproduction, certification, transportation, storage, sales and use of seedlings in the Republic of Armenia; - increasing the areas of crops ensuring high added value; - contributing, through subsidisation or compensation for up to 70% for seeds for autumn sowing and spring sowing, ensuring the accessibility of seeds with high agro-economic indicators, increasing the crop yield, which results in increase of the volumes of crops for autumn sowing and summer sowing and incomes of economic entities; - regulating the process of licensing and use of new types of crops, ensuring the legal protection of selection inventions, expanding the type composition of plants guaranteeing cultivation in different climatic zones of the Republic, preventing the deterioration of the phytosanitary condition of areas under cultivation, diseases, mass reproduction of pests and weeds; - organising the production of healthy virus-free seedlings of potato of primary importance in the Republic; - increasing the surface area and volumes of production of greenhouse facilities through construction of small and medium-sized greenhouses and technological support thereto through state support, increasing the level of competitiveness of the product produced; - specifying the main approaches to and mechanisms for complete introduction of the insurance system in the sector of agriculture through

	<p>implementation of a pilot programme for introduction thereof in the sector of agriculture, by creating pre-conditions for gradual introduction of the insurance system;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating favourable conditions for organisation of the effective use of agricultural soil types and commodity production as a result of supply to economic entities in the agriculture agricultural machinery under affordable terms, in particular by applying leasing mechanisms. <p>Legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>Sub-point 16 of point 10 and sub-point 40 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity to increase the areas of gardens and the volumes of products, the volumes of non-traditional high-value agricultural products produced in the Republic, improve the quality of the product produced and the competitive positions in the foreign market, intensify the sector, effectively use the land and water resources, prevent the damages caused by natural and climatic disasters.</p> <p>Due to their small sizes and difficulties in the sale of products, the majority of rural households engaged in crop production in the Republic of Armenia have transformed into subsistence farms, where it is impossible to organise effective commodity production. As a result, the price cost of the product proves to be higher and non-competitive.</p> <p>Although in recent years the areas of fruit and berry gardens have increased by applying the intensive latest technologies, however there is a need to promote the founding of intensive gardens.</p> <p>Due to absence of legislation on certification of a seedling, the seedling produced in the Republic of Armenia has never been certified. Since 1990s, the Republic has had no scientifically substantiated (exemplary) nursery farms and produces no high-quality and reliable seedlings.</p> <p>For the purpose of effective development of the agriculture of the Republic, in addition to the local seed-growing and seed production, importance is attached also to the local plant production, which may guarantee not only increase of areas of fruit and berry gardens, but also provide an opportunity to export seedlings.</p> <p>In recent years the main production and economic indicators of the wheat for autumn sowing and spring sowing have decreased. The spread of the coronavirus and the situation following the martial law resulted in difficulties in import of the wheat; due to the loss of grasslands used in borderline areas there is an issue of providing fodder.</p> <p>Currently, as a result of sort-testing of new varieties and hybrids of plants, their licensing and drawing up the economic utility permit, the varieties and hybrids of relevant crops more adapted to the given conditions, producing high yield, having qualitatively greater value are selected and put into circulation for all natural and economic zones of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
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The potato is the one of primary agricultural crops cultivated, and the largest areas under cultivation are in Gegharkunik, Shirak and Lori Marzes. However, currently the lack of financial resources does not allow organising the whole process of potato seed-growing through the biotechnology, in particular by the method of tissue culture. Therefore, the availability of a greenhouse with the area of 2000 sq.m. in this field would allow starting the production of mini tubers from plantlets, thus continuing the further production chain of seedlings.

In the current conditions, the greenhouse facilities, having greater effectiveness, require financial investments, existence of developed infrastructures, application of modern technologies, sector-specific knowledge.

The implementation of the state support programme for the introduction of small and medium-sized greenhouse facilities will solve many issues, including criteria and accessible versions will be introduced through modern technological solutions for small and medium-sized greenhouse facilities, a mechanism for compensation for the expenses related to the construction of greenhouses will be applied.

The gradual introduction of the insurance system plays an important role in the state policy conducted in the sector of agriculture. Based on the characteristics of the sector, the introduction of the insurance system requires solution to many issues, which refer to the assessment of the risks in the agriculture, introduction of the re-insurance, establishment of relevant infrastructures, regulation of the insurance market, combination of compulsory-voluntary insurance, public-private co-operation and specification of directions, amounts, methods and mechanisms of state support in this field.

Currently, the agricultural machinery in the sector of agriculture is characterised by low effectiveness, cost consumption which is related to high degree of wear, low level of serviceability and additional expenses for compelled regular repair. A part of economic entities seek to update the set of agricultural machinery, whereas due to limited financial means, high prices for imported mechanical means, they apply for the assistance of financial institutions to lease out agricultural machinery.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The state support programme for introduction of latest technologies for the development of intensive horticulture and promotion of the production of non-traditional high-value crops envisages to promote — through partial subsidisation of interest rates of credits and partial compensation for expenses — the founding of vineyards, intensive fruit gardens and berry fields, construction of irrigation systems and/or water basins, introduction of hail protection networks, as well as cultivation of non-traditional high-value crops.

For the purpose of introducing the seedling certification system, legislation on certification of seedlings will be drafted, based on which the certification process will be conducted.

The Laws of the Republic of Armenia of 3 June 2021 “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On narcotic drugs and psychotropic (psychoactive) substances””, “On state duty””, and “On making supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On licensing”” prescribed the specifics of production, legal circulation, import, export and retail of industrial hemp in the Republic, their licensing and the requirements for quotation, as well as the amounts of the state duty.

For the purpose of increasing the volumes of production of local crops it is envisaged to

implement a state support programme for promotion of production of crops for autumn sowing and spring sowing, in particular through partial subsidisation or compensation for the prices for seeds of crops for autumn sowing and spring sowing, promote the organisation of the production of crops for autumn sowing and spring sowing.

During the check of quality of seeds and state sort-testing activities the following are envisaged: expert examination of applications for selection inventions, maintenance of a register, record-registration of an originator, drawing up of descriptions and specifications of plant varieties – 15 per year, laboratory examinations and documentation for the quality of plant varieties – about 12.0 thousand tonnes per year, publication of journals and registry on new plant varieties – 4800 pages, control sowing and field testing of new plant varieties — 115 per year.

For the purpose of organising the production of virus-free seedlings of potato in the Republic of Armenia, the production capacities of the branch “Scientific Centre of Agrobiotechnology” of Armenian National Agrarian University will be enhanced through support to the construction of the greenhouse with the area of 2000 sq.m.

Within the framework of implementation of the state support programme for the introduction of small and medium-sized greenhouse facilities, 3 models of construction of greenhouse facilities and their technological support are recommended. Compensation for expenses (30-50%) is provided in case of application of each model. The construction of greenhouses may be carried out both through the contractor having a licence and without a contractor.

For the purpose of implementation of the state support programme for the implementation of the pilot programme for the introduction of insurance system in the sector of agriculture, as early as in 2018 the international consulting organisation carried out preparatory activities for the introduction of the pilot programme for insurance. Currently, within the framework of the above-mentioned programme adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1485-L of 24 October 2019, the crops of apricot, peach, grape, plum, watermelon, melon, potato, grain (wheat for autumn sowing/ spring sowing and barley, oats) are insured against the risks of frostbite, hail and fire. At least 50-60 % of the insurance premiums is subsidised within the framework of the programme.

Within the framework of the state support programme of financial lease, i.e. leasing of the agricultural machinery in the Republic of Armenia, it is envisaged to recommend to economic entities in the agriculture accessible, to the extent possible, and effective approaches to the acquisition of the agricultural machinery. According to the programme, the agricultural equipment will be provided to economic entities under the leasing agreement, for advance payment in the amount of 20%, for a prepayment period of 3-10 years. The total amount of the leasing subjects acquired by the same leasing holder must not exceed AMD 200 million.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The implementation of the Action is expected to have both quantitative and qualitative results (ensuring progressive growth). In particular:

- increasing the areas of gardens supplied with modern irrigation systems and/or hail protection networks, filled with modern and competitive types of seedlings, land areas having modern irrigation systems and water basins, areas of non-traditional high-value crops, reducing the price cost of the product by means of increasing the effectiveness of the production, founding high-yield gardens instead of low-yield traditional gardens,

	<p>enhancing the investment attractiveness of the sector of horticulture, increasing the income of economic entities deemed to be participants of the programme, effective use of water resources, reducing the hail risk;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - founding intensive gardens by 1000 hectares every year; - the plant production will be regulated, and certified seedlings will be produced in the Republic of Armenia, which will contribute to the increase of the volumes of fruit and berry gardens and improve the effectiveness of the production; - increasing areas of non-traditional high-value crops; - as a result of production of industrial hemp, the range of high-value crops will expand in the Republic of Armenia, employment in the agriculture will increase, new directions will be introduced in the processing industry, the growth in the volumes of export will be recorded; - increasing the level of crop yield of autumn sowing and spring sowing in the Republic; - increasing the areas under cultivation for legumes and feed crops; - mitigating the issue of providing fodder; - increasing the fertility of the soil as a result of crop rotation; - improving the phytosanitary condition of the areas under cultivation for agricultural crops for 5–10 % as a result of use of high-quality seeds having undergone a laboratory examination; - increasing the crop yield for 5-10 % as a result of allocations for permit for licensing, registration and use of the best varieties; - the availability of the greenhouse with the area of 2000 sq.m. will enable to produce healthy virus-free seedlings and to have, each year starting from 2025, 30 000 tonnes of “A” class seedlings in the Republic, which will contribute to the increase of the yield of potato by about 40-50%; - greenhouse facilities will be constructed with modern technologies by actual standards, as a result of which the volumes of greenhouse products will increase, the areas of greenhouse facilities will expand for up to 10 ha per year through credit leasing and compensation tools; - complete insurance for agricultural crops will be introduced in the coming 5 years; - pre-conditions will be created for satisfying the solvent demand of economic entities in the agriculture by the use of affordable mechanisms, i.e. definitely updating the set of agricultural machinery by about 500 units per year, the level of mechanisation in the agriculture will increase to certain extent.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>9.3 Promoting the development of the animal breeding branch</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved</p>

by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-points 9 and 10 of paragraph 2, Subsection “2.4 Agriculture”).

Main objectives of the Action are as follows:

- improving the conditions of keeping animals through state support for construction or re-construction of small and medium-sized livestock buildings and their technological support, thus improving the indicators of productivity of animals;
- receiving reliable information on the existing livestock number, their sex, breed and location, movement and predicting the volumes of animal-breeding products, enhancing the confidence of consumers in the meat and meat products sold, fully implementing anti-epidemic measures within the framework of state funding and contributing to the preventions of diseases and veterinary inspection, expert examination of the quality of the animal-breeding products and control over the movement of animals within the country, as well as entering the international market by complying with the requirements prescribed by the international standards;
- supplying breeding bovine cattle to the economic entities engaged in cattle breeding in the Republic of Armenia under affordable conditions, in particular through partial subsidisation of the interest rates of credits, which will allow adding breeding bovine cattle having valuable production and economic characteristics to the herd instead of animals of unknown origin, unfit for reproduction, low productivity, developing the pedigree, improving the productivity of local animals through bigeneric cross, increasing the volumes of milk and meat production, reducing the cost price of the milk and meat produced, by making it more competitive with respect to the similar imported product;
- creating favourable conditions for the development of sheep breeding and goat breeding in the Republic through state support mechanisms, in particular application of accessible credit terms and compensation for expenses, and promoting the acquisition (import) of high-value breeding sheep and goats and formation of highly productive herds, which will allow improving the genera bred, developing the pedigree, increasing the number of pure-bred animals having valuable production and economic characteristics and cross-bred animals resulting from bigeneric cross, as well as stabilising the competitive position in the foreign market, increasing the volumes of export of live sheep and mutton and goat cheese.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Incorrect organisation of the keeping of and care for the animals, lack of normalised feeding, as well as insufficient sanitary and hygiene conditions have currently created such a situation, which makes it impossible to satisfy the demand for milk based on the local production. In other words, the main reason for low productivity is mainly the extensive approach to the production, as well as lack of modern technologies, management, information and knowledge. And even for intensive farms the solving of the above-mentioned issues related to the keeping of animals today remains a priority issue. The issues in all stages of value chain of the cattle breeding product in the Republic hinder the development of the sector.

To date the Republic of Armenia has not carried out complete record-keeping of animals, which gives rise to an issue in the field of animal breeding for receiving information on the number and sex and age composition of animals.

As a result of segregation of the livestock number, as well as reduction of the breeding livestock number in the herd, serious obstacles have arisen in the performance of large-scale breed selection activities. As a result, the milk yield has for years been ranging within the limits of 2000 kg. While the

modern technologies for the management of cattle breeding and the use of the gene pool of highly-productive genera enable the cows to give milk of at least 4000 kg, to sell the cattle fattened up for the meat, with the live weight of 450 kg and higher.

Reduction of the number of sheep in the Republic of Armenia has also resulted in the decrease of effectiveness of the use of pastures. In the Republic, the annual average wool yield by one sheep ranges within the limits of 2.2 kg, and the live weight of goats of local genera bred is 35-36 kg, the duration of milk yield is 6-8 months, the average milk yield of one goat ranges within the limits of 160 kg, while the modern technologies for the management of animal breeding and the use of gene pool of highly-productive genera allow producing meat amounting to about AMD 3.5 billion and milk amounting to AMD 0.5 billion in 2019-2027.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of modernising the animal farms, including improving the conditions of keeping, increasing the level of milk yield, increasing the income of economic entities and raising the level of profitability of the sector it is necessary to implement **the state support programme for the construction or re-construction of small and medium-sized “Smart” livestock buildings through the state support**. The programme has been launched since 2019. As of 1st half of 2021, compensation has been provided to 43 beneficiaries, as a result 24 livestock building were put into operation.

For the purpose of numbering and record-keeping of the agricultural animals it is necessary to undertake the following steps:

- establishing a working group;
- developing a programme for numbering and record-keeping of agricultural animals and actions for the implementation of the programme;
- introducing a system of numbering and record-keeping of agricultural animals.

The 2019-2024 Programme for development of the cattle breeding in the Republic of Armenia envisages provision of state support to the acquisition of breeding bovine animals at the expense of funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, which will allow increasing the breeding value of herds and restoring the breeding process in the cattle breeding.

By the implementation of actions under the 2019-2023 State Support Programme for development of the sheep breeding and goat breeding in the Republic of Armenia the acquisition of breeding animals in the Republic will be promoted, infrastructures will be established, a system of management of pastures lying in the administrative territories of the communities will be introduced, the veterinary services and breed selection activities will be effectively organised.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The expected outcomes from the implementation of the Action are as follows:

- constructing smart livestock buildings – about 25 unit per year;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing small and medium-sized cattle breeding farms in the Republic; - introducing modern technologies for the management of cattle breeding, intensifying the branch; - creating favourable conditions for keeping animals (ensuring zoohygienic conditions, effective use of the genetic potential); - increasing the level of milk yield for one cow, increasing the livestock number; - introducing the system of numbering, record-keeping and registration of the bovine cattle; - enhancing the confidence of consumers in the meat and meat products sold; - expert examination of the quality of livestock products and control over the movement of animals within the country; - promoting the acquisition of breeding bovine cattle having high genetic potential; - gradually intensifying the branch of cattle breeding in the Republic; - increasing the share of breeding animals by 10-15% per year; - increasing the volumes of production of milk and meat; - acquiring small cattle of different sex and age groups, having high genetic potential; - gradually intensifying the branches of sheep breeding and goat breeding in the Republic; - creating opportunities for more effective use of pastures and greenlands of the Republic; - increasing the income of economic entities, enhancing the level of competitiveness; - building professional capacities of economic entities.
	<p><u>9.4 Promoting sales and export of agro-food products</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-points 11, 12, 14, 19 of paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>Main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the level of credit accessibility through subsidisation of interest rates of targeted credits extended to legal persons and individual entrepreneurs operating in the sector of industry of processing agricultural products; - establishing wholesale markets and logistic centres for agricultural products, which will allow regulating the fundamental issues of sales of

agricultural products;

- promoting Armenian wines in the target market, in particular in the member states of the European Union, and increasing the volumes of their sales;
- supplying to economic entities of the agro-food industry equipment under affordable terms, in particular by applying the mechanisms of financial lease;
- creating a register of grape seedlings, preservation and reproduction of the gene pool of the Armenian grape variety, pilot production of grape seedlings resistant to phylloxera;
- creating the umbrella trademark "Wines of Armenia" and introducing the system of certification thereof;
- increasing recognisability of Armenian wines in the international markets;
- need to provide assistance in sales of the residue of the brandy spirits available at winemaking companies;
- introducing Armenia to the world as a wine making country, as well as promoting non-agricultural activities in rural settlements;
- assisting the creation of groups (associations) of producers;
- specifying the scope of bodies exercising control over state supervision over the compliance of the warranted traditional products with geographical indications, designations of origin and over the compliance with technical specifications and the scope of their activities, prescribing the administrative sanctions in case of production or sales of a warranted traditional product with a geographical indication, designation of origin not complying with technical specifications.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The industry of processing of agricultural products is one of the most important sectors for ensuring guaranteed sales and reproduction of agricultural products, and the level of development of that sector of the economy largely determines the development of the agriculture. Due to the scarcity or absence of own liquid assets, the enterprises in the industry of processing of agricultural products always ensure the replenishment of circulating assets on the account of credit funds, which usually are medium-term (3-5 years), sometimes long-term, in AMD and currency, the interests rates and terms of which are not beneficial for economic entities.

Rural households mainly sell agricultural products in the markets of agricultural products and other retail networks through intermediaries, without proper sorting and packaging. In this case the incomes of rural households are low and the intermediaries often have larger profits than rural households, without paying any tax, thus causing unreasonable increase of sales prices, which results in justified complaints by rural households, and the sales of the produced yield becomes difficult considering the level of purchasing power of consumers currently formed. At the same time, the producer does not manage to plan the range and volumes of products. As a result, not only the potential of domestic consumption is fully used, but also there are

no mechanisms ensuring the entry of foreign purchasers into the Armenian market of agricultural products.

The study conducted in the agro-food sector of the Republic has shown that the economic entities of the agro-food sector use different production facilities with degree of wear from 5% to 70%, and in certain organisations they are still of the Soviet Union production, morally and physically worn out. In recent years, economic entities have acquired equipment both at the expense of own and credit funds, and through leasing, whereas their volumes are small. Credit funds for acquiring equipment are provided at higher, non-preferable interest rates and for terms, percentages of advance payment that are not beneficial for economic entities. Economic entities have limited financial capacities, accumulated administrative burden, have no free collateral.

Armenia is considered to be one of ancient centres of winemaking and viticulture. Despite the millennial history of winemaking and viticulture in Armenia, our Republic currently produces grapes mainly in the yards inherited from the Soviet Union. They are mainly not selected, have been planted without consideration of the specialisation of areas, time limits for ripening of seeds, the colour of fruits, consumption and technical values of the yield, etc. Currently, the issues of both ensuring the desirable level of production of quality wines, and the production and supply of the high-quality raw material are not fully solved. There are also issues in the engagement of quality specialists. Farming households, mostly being self-educated and applying old cultivation approaches not complying with the current requirements, have low level of effectiveness.

The volumes of sales, including the export of wine products have drastically decreased due the coronavirus pandemic. In 2020, as compared to the same period of the previous year, the volumes of export of brandy spirits decreased by about 50 % or 7.5 million litres. On the other hand, in 2020, about 235 thousand tonnes of grapes were harvested, of which about 215 thousand tonnes were estimated to be directed to the production of brandy spirits (about 19.0 million litres of brandy will be produced on average).

Taking into consideration the fact that the coronavirus epidemic continues, and due to it, the economic entities engaged in the production of brandy spirits and brandy have considerable residues of the product generated, to which the product resulting from the processing of the grape in the current year is also added, necessity has arisen to provide support to economic entities of the sector in the sales of brandy spirits so that the factories could sell the residues of brandy spirits and have free capacities for storing the product before starting the stocking of grapes in 2022.

In recent years, expansion of both the sales volumes and sales geography of Armenian wines has been observed, whereas their volumes are small, and it is necessary to undertake measures to increase them. At target markets the barriers to the increase of sales volumes of Armenian wines include organisation by individual economic entities of supplies in small batches; on the other hand, increase of on-line sales of wine products has been recorded due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The rich history and culture of wine, as well as hospitality, food and nature of Armenia create a pre-condition for the development of the wine tourism in Armenia, simultaneously creating pre-conditions for creating relevant added values.

Nevertheless, for the purpose of developing the given direction of tourism there are still certain obstacles that, in general, are the issues of the sector of tourism, *i.e.* lack of information and its accessibility, presence of underdeveloped infrastructures based on the main direction of tourism, low level of

recognisability of Armenia among international tourists as a destination for wine tourism.

The right to submit to the Intellectual Property Agency an application for registering a product with geographical indication, designation of origin or a warranted traditional product is reserved only to the group that carries out activities of production of the products indicated in the application, and the group of producers may be any union of producers or processors regardless of the organisational and legal form and composition, which operates based on the statute thereof and carries out production activities in relation to the products indicated in the application. Various types of Armenian agro-food products and wild plants, including wines, cheese, fresh fruits, berries and vegetables, edible herbs and wild plants may be registered as products with a geographical indication, designation of origin or a warranted traditional products, which will allow them to be imported and sold at significantly higher prices, thus ensuring additional income for producers, whereas this does not become common in Armenia, and the main reason for that is the lack of groups, unions or associations of entities producing products with geographical indications, designations of origin or warranted traditional products.

Variety of types of Armenian agro-food products and wild plants, including wines, cheese, fresh fruits, berries and vegetables, edible herbs and wild plants may be registered as products with a geographical indication, designation of origin or warranted traditional products, which will allow exporting and selling them at significantly higher prices, thus ensuring additional income for producers, while this is not common in Armenia, and the product with a geographical indication registered as of today is “Sevan trout”.

The relations pertaining to the registration, legal protection and use of geographical indications, designations of origin and a warranted tradition product are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On geographical indications”. The Law is in line with the legislation of the European Union, which is stated in part 1 of Article 231 of EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Despite this, there are certain omissions in the legislative regulation of the process of developing technical specifications for products with geographical indications, designations of origin and warranted traditional products and exercise of control thereover, and provisions subject to additional regulation. The problem is that the provisions regulating the supervision and control over the compliance of products with geographical indications, designations of origin and warranted traditional products are not clearly separated by the Law. On the other hand, the Law clearly specifies that the bodies exercising control over the requirements prescribed by technical specifications must be accredited by the compliance assessment body (bodies) accredited as prescribed by law, based on the relevant standards.

The draft Law " On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical indications"" prescribes, among other regulations, that the authorised body exercising state supervision may prohibit the production, sales, export or import of products with geographical indications, designations of origin and warranted traditional products not complying with the technical specifications and issue binding orders on withdrawal from the market, the failure to comply with the order entails liability as prescribed by law, while the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offences does not prescribe relevant administrative sanctions.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the framework of programmes for subsidising the interests rates of credits extended in the agro-processing sector for stocking

(procurement) of agricultural raw materials, subsidised targeted credits are extended that must be directed only to the payment of the value of stocked grapes, fruit and vegetables, live animals and milk, and the extent (amount) of the extended credit must not exceed the procurement value of the raw material indicated in the agreements concluded with the rural households considered to be borrowers, and in case it is calculated at the minimum prices for procurement of the raw material – 120 per cent of the expected value of procurement of the raw material.

Within the framework of the programme, the financial institutions, for the purpose of stocking (procurement) of fruits and vegetables, grape, live animals and milk, will provide to economic entities credit funds at the interest rate of 14 per cent, for a 3-year period of repayment for the grapes and for 1.5 years for other directions, the interest rates of which will be partially or completely subsidised.

For the purpose of mitigating the issues of sales of agricultural products it is recommended to establish a network of wholesale markets and logistic centres, which will allow reducing the losses of agricultural products of the Armenian production and logistic expenses for sales, enhancing the quality and competitiveness of products, ensuring batches of products sorted and packaged according to the relevant quality indicators to both supply to retail networks in the domestic market and to export and recommend to exporting organisations.

The implementation of the state support programme for financial lease, i.e. leasing of equipment of agro-food sector in the Republic of Armenia envisages to provide to economic entities operating in the agro-food sector up to AMD 1 billion for leasing out of the equipment, with an 8-year repayment period, partial or full subsidisation of interest rates, advance payment in the amount of 20% of the price for acquisition of the leasing subject. Moreover, the grace period prescribed for repayment of the principal amount of the leasing is calculated at least 3 months from the moment of granting a lease, the leasing holder assumes the obligation of paying the non-subsidised interests of the leasing starting from the moment of granting a lease.

Within the framework of support to the process of export of brandy spirits and stocking of grapes, it is envisaged to provide to economic entities state contribution in the amount of the state duty of additional AMD 100 000 paid for acquisition of the right of sales of batches of brandy spirits after exceeding 100.000 litres (calculated for 100% spirit).

For the purpose of increasing the recognisability of Armenian wines, entering new target markets and increasing the volumes of sales it is recommended to establish logistic and client service centre for Armenian wines, as well as an on-line sale platform, where the services of storage, customs clearance, packaging, labelling and transportation of goods to the EU countries will be carried out. This will increase the level of accessibility of Armenian wines in the European market and will contribute to the increase of sales. The logistic centre will allow uniting the potential of companies producing Armenian wine and organising collective cargo transportation to the logistic centre located in the EU territory.

The solutions recommended for the implementation **of the action for development of the wine tourism** are as follows:

- establishing and improving the infrastructures in the regions of wine tourism in Armenia;
- supporting and contributing to the production of quality wines by small and medium-sized producers, developing the capacities of hospitality services;
- developing the “Wine Route” of Armenia;

- developing and placing road signs for the purpose of development of “Wine Tourism” and introducing Armenia as a winemaking country,
- organising festivals, printing and disseminating books, information materials.

Upon implementation of the Action it is recommended to support and promote the establishment of groups, unions or associations producing products with geographical indications, designations of origin or warranted traditional products.

It is recommended to make relevant amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On geographical indications”, which will specify the bodies exercising state supervision over the compliance of the products with geographical indications, designations of origin and warranted traditional products and those exercising control over the compliance with the technical specifications and the scopes of their activities. The state supervision over the compliance of the product is reserved to the authorised body of the sector of food safety exercising supervision and cover all the stages of production and circulation, and the control over the compliance with the technical specifications of the product is exercised by the compliance assessment body (bodies) accredited as prescribed by the Law “On accreditation” and cover the stage of production (until placing on the market).

It is recommended that the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offences provide for administrative sanctions for cases of products or sales of products with geographical indications, designations of origin or warranted traditional products not complying with the technical specifications, according to which the mentioned violation entails imposition on the official of a fine in the amount of hundred-fold of the prescribed minimum salary. The repeated commission of the same act within one year from the day of imposing the administrative penalty entails imposition on the official of a fine in the amount of two-hundred-fold of the prescribed minimum salary, and the failure by the inspector to comply with the order on withdrawal from the market of the product with geographical indications, designations of origin or the warranted traditional product not complying with the technical specifications entails imposition on the official of a fine in the amount of two-hundred-fold of the prescribed minimum salary.

At the same time, competence of applying the above-mentioned administrative sanctions is reserved to the state authorised body exercising state supervision in the field of food safety.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

As a result of the implementation of the Action:

- the establishment of wholesale markets and logistic centres will reduce by half the losses of about 30-35 % occurring in the value chain due to storage, packaging transportation of fruits and vegetables, potato and other goods, and other inconveniences;
- competitive conditions will be created among those engaged in the agricultural production, to plan, enhance the volumes of production and sales of and improve the quality of own product;
- transition will be made to the civilised system of sales of agricultural products and principles of organisation of the trade, by ensuring compliance with the requirements of food safety;
- the formation of quantities of goods will significantly increase the volumes of productions and export of agricultural products;

- pre-conditions will be created to satisfy the solvent demand of economic entities of the agro-food sector by applying accessible mechanisms, and to furnish the households with new equipment;
- the production capacities of processing companies will be enhanced and modernised:
about 250 units of equipment will be acquired annually;
- the level of replenishment of the agro-food sector with the latest equipment, the beneficiary economic entities will economically strengthen, and conditions will be created for the organisation and further development of commodity production thereby;
- opportunity will be created to replace the import of certain types of products of the agro-food sector with the local production;
- greenhouses, cold storage facilities and slaughter houses will be constructed;
- pre-conditions will be created for increasing the level of creditworthy demand in the sector, which will result in making, within the short period of time, the payments to economic entities in the agriculture for purchase of agricultural products;
- contractual relations for procurement of raw materials will be established between the processor and rural households, which will provide the rural households with sustainable guarantees for sales of raw materials;
- as a result of support to the process of stocking of raw materials, support to the export of brandy and brandy spirits, as well as promotion of wine making and brandy making, the volumes of stocking of raw materials and the products released will increase by up to 50% in the coming 5 years;
- the level of competitiveness of canned fruit and vegetables, winemaking products and dairy will increase by 5-7 per cent, as a result of which the volumes of production and export will increase;
- the attractiveness of the industry of processing agricultural products will increase to certain level, the issues of sales of agricultural products will significantly mitigate, the demand for agricultural raw materials will grow;
- adding new varieties to the collection vineyards, preserving the grape gene pool, fulfilling the technological potential of less common local varieties, existence of electronic database for Armenian grape varieties, and availability of accurate description of Armenian varieties on international platforms;
- availability of nurseries for production of grape seedlings resistant to phylloxera;
- guide for full application of the system of production of high-quality wines, availability of systems for certification and supervision thereof;
- developing wine tourism;
- the establishment of collective warehouses in the main markets of export of Armenian wines will ensure easy access of Armenian wines to new targeted markets, growth in the volumes of sales of the trademark "Armenian Wines", increase of recognisability of Armenian wines;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - established sector-specific associations (groups) will have the opportunity to apply to the Intellectual Property Agency as prescribed by law for registering the product with a geographical indication, designation of origin or the warranted traditional product produced by their members, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical indications" will be clarified and improved; - the authorised body exercising state supervision will be provided with the opportunity to apply relevant sanctions in cases of production, sales, export or import of products with geographical indications, designations of origin and warranted traditional products not complying with technical specifications, which will allow preventing their production, import and marketing; - the bodies exercising state supervision over the compliance of the product with geographical indications, designations of origin and the warranted traditional product and the bodies exercising control over the compliance with the technical specifications, and the scope of their activities will be specified, and an opportunity will be provided to accredit — as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On accreditation” — the bodies willing to exercise control over the compliance of the product with the technical specifications, as well as to prevent the production, sales, export or import of products with geographical indications, designations of origin and warranted traditional products not complying with the technical specifications; - more than 10 names of products will be produced and registered with Armenian geographical indications.
	<p><u>9.5 Elaborating a Strategy for Development of Food Safety System and a 2022-2026 Action Plan</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 3, 15, 17, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>Main objective of the Action is to ensure further sustainable development of the system of food safety.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Action Plan approved by the 2017-2021 Concept Paper for Food Safety and Protocol Decision No 48 serve as a basis for ensuring the food safety system. Given the fact that the time limit for actions specified for development of the food safety system expires, necessity has arisen to develop a strategy for the development of the system of food safety and a 2022- 2026 Action plan. On the other hand, it is necessary to note that the food safety system is quite comprehensive and, in addition to the availability, accessibility and safety of food products, is conditioned by many other factors, such as availability and accessibility of infrastructures, social and economic conditions of different strata of the population, etc., as well the impact of other sectors of economy (education, healthcare, information and new technologies, etc.) related to the food safety.</p> <p>Currently, it is also necessary to ensure the process of enforcement of regulatory legal acts of legal nature, of the Eurasian Economic Commission in the field of food safety in the Republic of Armenia, at the same time to review and repeal the relevant legal acts of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the framework of implementation of the Action it is recommended to develop a strategy for further development of the food safety system and a 2022-2026 Action Plan, which will prescribe the main principles, directions and action plan of the policy of development of the food safety, based on the principle of multi-level development.</p> <p>The effective measures for solving the issues faced by the agriculture include increasing the credit availability for economic entities in the agriculture and improving the credit terms. The programme for subsidising the interest rates of credits extended to the sector of agriculture will be focused on providing credit to programmes for development of the sector of agriculture. The programme provides up to AMD 1 million (only for natural persons), AMD 3-15 million, AMD 3-30 million for the development of sheep breeding and goat breeding and for founding traditional gardens, AMD 3-50 million for the development of cattle breeding. The credit repayment period is up to 5 years, in case of credits extended for founding traditional gardens — up to 7 years, in case of credits extended for the development of swine breeding and poultry breeding — up to 3 years, in case of credits extended in the amount of up to 1 million — up to 2 years. A grace period for repayment of the credit — maximum 12 months, is also prescribed, in case of credits extended for founding a traditional garden — maximum 4 years. Credits will be available to citizens at up to 5%.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Availability of the Strategy for Further Development of Food Safety System and the 2022-2026 Action Plan, whereby the relevant actions ensuring the further sustainable and proportional development of the system will be pre-determined.</p>
	<p><u>9.6. Ensuring food safety, approving the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Strategy for Food Safety"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 15, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>Main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring further sustainable development of the system of food safety; - identifying the issues and legislative gaps in the sector of food safety and developing and adopting relevant legal acts based thereon; - developing a strategy for food safety. <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In the Republic of Armenia the food safety is one of important and urgent issues that require solutions in compliance with the modern demands and criteria. Currently, in the Republic of Armenia the food safety system does not fully guarantee provision to consumers of safe and quality food, as well as increase of competitiveness of the food of local production in foreign and domestic markets.</p>

	<p>The Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for development of the food safety system and the Action Plan deriving therefrom was adopted by Protocol Decision No 45 of the sitting of 17 November 2011. Taking into consideration the fact that the time limits for the actions specified for development of the food safety system have expired, as well as the current challenges of the sector of food safety has undergone considerable changes, necessity has arisen to develop a strategy for the development of the food safety system and a 2022-2026 Action Plan.</p> <p>Legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents — point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>Sub-points 12 and 20 of point 10 and sub-points 39 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>Currently, it is necessary also to ensure the process of implementation of regulatory legal acts of the sector of food safety of the Eurasian Economic Commission in the Republic of Armenia, concurrently to review and repeal the relevant legal acts of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the framework of implementation of the Action it is envisaged to improve the legislation of the sector of food safety of the Republic of Armenia and develop a Strategy for further development of the food safety system and a 2022-2026 Action Plan, which will prescribe the main principles, directions and action plan of the policy of development of the food safety.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Strategy for further development of the food safety system and a 2022-2026 Action Plan will be developed, which will specify the relevant actions ensuring further sustainable and proportional development of the system, an improved system ensuring the food safety in the Republic of Armenia will be established, safe and quality food will be provided to consumers, as well as the competitiveness of the food of local production in the foreign and domestic markets will enhance, by improving the legislative framework relating to the field of food safety in the Republic of Armenia and bringing it into compliance with the EAEU and international requirements.
	<p><u>9.7. Implementing actions for protection of plants</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 17, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>The Action is included in the "Promotion of Crop production and Plant Protection" programme (hereinafter referred to as "the Programme") and ensures the implementation of plant protection and quarantine measures and phytosanitary safety of the territory of the Republic. Therefore a need arises to carry out field researches every year in agricultural land types, works to detect harmful organisms of plants. As a result of the implementation</p>

of the Action, the areal, degree (weak, medium and strong) of plant contamination with harmful organisms, the threshold of economic harmfulness are determined, which are aimed at organising and implementing works to fight against mouse-like rodents, grasshoppers, larvae, as well as main pests and diseases of perennial seedling, vegetable and garden and cereal crops.

In 2020, the Programme consisted of two different actions: "Provision of Phytosanitary Services" and "Agrochemical Soil Survey and Fertility Enhancement Actions", but the budget for 2021 approved it as one Action — "Implementation of Phytosanitary Services, Agrochemical Soil Survey and Fertility Enhancement Actions."

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Within the framework of implementation of phytosanitary services, for the purpose of detecting and registering plant pests, field researches are carried out in the agricultural land types of the Republic, as a result whereof relevant recommendation was submitted to the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia.

In 2021, funding from the State Budget amounted to AMD 95,880 million (expenses for agrochemical soil research and fertility enhancement actions are also included), out of which the actual cost amounted to AMD 95,880 million; during 2021, the areas surveyed for the detection of plant pests amounted to 315000 hectares.

In 2022, funding from the State Budget amounted to AMD 47,940 million (allocations were reduced by 50%), which also affected the surveyed areas — only 180000 ha. Due to the reduction of financial resources, the research works on the phytosanitary condition of agricultural land types in the Republic have decreased by 43%, which has increased the risks of detection, dissemination, and excess in economic harmfulness threshold of contamination of agricultural crops with pests and diseases by at least that much. In 2021, the number of laboratory examinations of soil samples taken from the researched areas in agricultural land types amounted to 64325 pcs, as expected; the developed agrochemical maps of agricultural lands and the scientifically substantiated letters of recommendation for the application of fertilisation provided to communities amounted to 170 pcs, as expected (taking into account the fact that there are 852 communities/settlements in the Republic of Armenia having agricultural cultivated lands. Taking into consideration the change of soil reproduction indicators during 5 years, it is necessary to carry out soil surveys of communities every 5 years, therefore, $(852 : 5) 170$ communities must be surveyed for 4 years, 172 communities — for 1 year, and all the communities of the Republic will have agrochemical maps), in general the works were carried out by 100%.

In 2022, the developed agrochemical maps of agricultural lands and the scientifically substantiated letters of recommendation for the application of fertilisation provided to the communities amounted to 85 pieces. Due to the reduction of financial resources, the research works on the phytosanitary condition of agricultural land types in the Republic were decreased by 43%, which has increased the risks of detection, dissemination, and excess in economic harmfulness threshold of contamination of agricultural crops with pests and diseases by at least that much. The works of preparing agrochemical maps has decreased by 50%, which means violation of the presence of scientifically substantiated letters of recommendation for the application of fertilisation in the Republic every 5 years.

Post retrenchments of employees conducting agrochemical research took place. At present, the functions of employees carrying out phytosanitary and

	<p>agrochemical research were combined, there was an increase in the workload of one employee, instead the salary decreased, which will negatively affect work efficiency.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In 2021-2026, within the framework of actions for the protection of plants, phytosanitary monitoring and assessment activities will continuously be carried out in the territory of the Republic, which include monitoring for detecting mouse-like rodents, grasshoppers, larvae, as well as main pests and diseases of perennial seedling, vegetable and garden and cereal crops, determining the economic harmfulness threshold of pests, the control measures will be arranged based on the findings."</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, in the case of an increase in financial resources (returning at least to the amount of financial resources allocated by the State Budget of 2021 — AMD 95,880 million), it will be possible to ensure a sustainable phytosanitary condition, high-quality and high yield of agricultural crops, the number of laboratory examinations of soil samples taken from the researched areas in agricultural land types will amount to 64325 pcs, the developed agrochemical maps of agricultural lands and scientifically substantiated letters of recommendation for the application of fertilisation provided to the communities will amount to 170 pieces.</p> <p>The agrochemical maps will be drawn up every 5 years in the entire territory of the Republic, the state of balance of nutrients in the soil will be manageable, in the case of their competent maintenance, the fertility of the soil will increase, thus the yield index will also increase.</p>
	<p><u>9.8 Implementing the programme for vaccination of farm animals</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 17, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating and maintaining — at the community level — the stable immunity of the livestock population vaccinated against infections of animals, and hence ensuring the production of animal products and raw materials of high quality from the veterinary and sanitary point of view, promoting the process of export and import thereof, as well as establishing and improving stable interstate economic relations. <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Taking into consideration the epizootic situation of specifically dangerous diseases and diseases of animals subject to mandatory notification, recorded in neighbouring countries, and the epidemiological situation of communicable diseases of animals recorded in certain marzes of the Republic, epizootic preventive and diagnostic measures are annually implemented to establish and maintain stable epizootic situation in the Republic. For the purpose of preventing and eliminating the communicable diseases common for agricultural animals, animals and people in the Republic, ensuring the</p>

	<p>implementation of measures preventing the penetration from foreign states into the territory of the Republic of Armenia of quarantine diseases, specifically dangerous and communicable diseases of animals subject to mandatory notification it is necessary to acquire veterinary medicine in the envisaged amounts and time limits.</p> <p>Legislative ground for implementation of the envisaged Action — Point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>Sub-points 12 and 21 of point 10 and sub-points 39 and 40 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The vaccine programme for agricultural animals envisages implementation of anti-epizootic preventive measures for control of communicable diseases of agricultural animals (brucellosis, tuberculosis, leukaemia, anthrax, foot-and-mouth disease, blackleg disease, lumpy skin disease).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an opportunity will be provided to each year ensure stable epizootic situation with respect to communicable diseases of agricultural animals, high level of protection of the population against communicable diseases common for animals and people;
	<p><u>9.9 Implementing actions for serological examination of foot-and-mouth disease</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 17, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>The main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessing the effectiveness of vaccinations against the anthrax disease and the level of immunity tension developed in vaccinated animals. <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The anthrax is a permanent issue for the regional countries, and even though as a result of anthrax vaccinations, our Republic has had a stable epidemiological situation, in 2016, a case of outbreak of the disease was recorded, which was conditioned by the subtype of genetically new A AGVII anthrax infection. It is necessary to conduct permanent and continuous state serological examination for the purpose of ensuring and assessing the stable epidemiological situation.</p> <p>Legislative ground for implementation of the envisaged Action — Point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-253-N "On</p>

<p>the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>Sub-points 12 and 21 of point 10 and sub-points 39 and 40 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For sample-taking, the actions of serological examination for the anthrax disease cover all the communities of the Republic of Armenia, which are grouped into 2 zones, <i>i.e.</i> a high-risk zone, that border with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, or there are seasonal pastures in those regions, and a low-risk zone.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the assessment of risks of possible penetration of the disease based on the serological examination will be ensured, as well as the detection or exclusion of circulation of the virus of the anthrax disease in the target communities will be ensured for scientific substantiation. - stable epidemiological situation will be maintain as a result of permanent and continuous preventive and monitoring activities;
<p><u>9.10. Implementing actions for laboratory diagnosis of diseases of agricultural animals and laboratory examination of raw materials and substance of animal origin</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 17, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>Main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <p>Protection of the population of the Republic of Armenia from communicable diseases common for animals and people (zoonosis), provision of raw materials of animal origin and products with food safe from the veterinary and sanitary perspective.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of creating and maintaining a stable epizootic situation, the implementation of laboratory diagnosis of a number of diseases of animals (including those common for animals and people), sectoral study of epizootic situation, as well as examination of raw materials and products of animal origin is aimed at ensuring the production of raw materials and products having high quality and safe from veterinary and sanitary perspective, promotion of export, re-export and import processes, as well as the establishment of stable interstate economic ties.</p> <p>Legislative ground for the implementation of the planned Action — Point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia NHO-253-N "On</p>

	<p>the structure and activities of the Government".</p> <p>Sub-points 12 and 21 of Point 10 and Sub-points 39 and 40 of Point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the frameworks of the actions for laboratory diagnosis of diseases of agricultural animals and laboratory examination of raw materials and substance of animal origin, for the purpose of ensuring a stable epizootic situation and the safety of raw materials and products of animal origin, the Actions will be implemented every year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>ensuring health of the animals, providing production and processing enterprises operating in the agricultural sector with raw materials and products safe from the veterinary perspective, preventing cases of outbreak of diseases common for animals and people among the population, ensuring stable interstate economic ties</p>
	<p><u>9.11 Using land resources in a targeted manner and using water resources economically and effectively</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 16, Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>Main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the effectiveness of the use of lands of agricultural significance, returning the uncultivated lands to agricultural circulation, - creating opportunities for the water users to introduce modern irrigation systems under affordable terms by promoting the process of transition from traditional (surface) irrigation to water-saving and efficient irrigation. <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2020, 222,660 thousand hectare (50,15 %) of the 444 thousand hectare of arable lands existing in the Republic of Armenia was used, or 221,339 thousand hectare (49,85 %) of lands was not cultivated for various objective and subjective reasons. Reasons for not cultivating lands of agricultural significance are various — low-yield, insufficient circulating capital, inaccessibility or insufficient supply of irrigation water, inaccessibility of agricultural machinery, low level of soil fertility, lack of land user — owner, etc.</p> <p>Drip irrigation and sprinkling irrigation methods are mainly widely used in countries where there is a deficit and high prime cost of irrigation water, as</p>

well as rugged relief, water-absorbing spots, etc., their introduction is appropriate both in small households and for productions on an industrial scale.

Taking into account the advantages of modern irrigation systems over surface irrigation, based on world experience, it can be stated that the mass introduction of modern irrigation systems in the country will provide both quantitative (efficient use of water resources and significant savings, increase in yields, increase of irrigated lands, etc.) and qualitative (improvement of the quality of yield, mitigation of negative impact on the environment, reduction (elimination) of tension in the irrigation area, increase of accounting and management efficiency, improvement of financial-economic and social state of a water user (farmer), increase of solvency, etc.) results.

And despite the above-mentioned circumstances, the co-financing programme for the implementation of modern irrigation systems, which is being implemented for the third year in a row, it is obvious that their spread in the Republic is proceeding at a rather slow pace and there is a need to apply new approaches, additional measures aimed at stimulating the process.

As a result of analysis, surveys, inquiries main reasons for the slow progress of the Programme have been registered: yet low level of awareness of the beneficiaries, problem of creditworthiness, an unattractive percentage of the compensation component. However, the main obstacle is that the introduction of systems for small plots of land is quite costly: the closing-in pipe, the water basin (where necessary), the pump and filter, the fertiliser system and other equipment of the head node make the lion's share of the cost of the irrigation system and, in case of their availability, the cultivators of the adjacent land plots will have the opportunity to run the intra-household network at very affordable prices, such as drip pipes, sprinkling systems, etc.

Under the currently implemented "Vedi Reservoir and Irrigation System Construction" Project — financed by the Republic of Armenia and the FDA — an intra-household closed pressurised irrigation network of 1200-1400 hectares of land in eight communities controlled by the Vedi Reservoir and Vedi River, and with the support of the World Bank Baghranyan-Norakert tertiary system has been already constructed for about 600 hectares of land by the Programme for increasing the efficiency of the irrigation systems.

1.1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

After the privatisation of lands in many communities of the Republic the lands are used incompletely, in many communities some of the lands of agricultural significance are not used at all due to low crop yield, distance from settlements, poor condition of field roads, lack of techniques, steep slopes. Currently, no actual study (monitoring) of unused lands of agricultural significance is conducted, there are no criteria for classifying the lands of agricultural significance as unused lands and there is no procedure for registering the unused lands, which complicates the process of registering the unused lands and registering information thereabout, which, in its turn, is an obstacle for involving the unused lands in circulation.

By considering the deprivation of property rights not acceptable in any case, it is necessary to regulate the legal framework, creating an opportunity to dispose of privatised uncultivated lands, including those of the land users who emigrated from the Republic with their families (by the time they will undertake the cultivation of their lands) to include them in agricultural circulation. A draft legal act on putting the unused lands into circulation will be developed.

	<p>The Action is aimed at the continuous modernisation of water resources and irrigation infrastructures of Ararat and Armavir Marzes, will support the introduction of modern irrigation systems (drip, sprinkling, etc.) on 2000 hectares of pilot territories pre-selected by mobile groups of consulting services and water user companies. The aim will be to encourage the culture of formation of cooperatives through the above-mentioned experimental irrigated areas for farmers seeking for land consolidation and the development of cooperatives.</p> <p>Several support funds will be operated to support groups of farmers and cooperatives, involved in the mentioned pilot processes, not only in investing in the sector of agricultural equipment and irrigation technologies, but also in financing the land consolidation processes.</p> <p>An inter-agency Working Group will be established at the level of heads of the bodies of the state administration system under the principle of co-chairmanship of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, Ministry of Environment and the Cadastre Committee.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as a result of elaboration and improvement of a relevant legal act, every year new lands will be included in circulation in the agricultural sector, the lands of agricultural significance will be used effectively and targetedly; - ways for enlarging the lands will be developed; as a result of the Action, about 3000 hectares of lands will be irrigated through modern systems.
	<p><u>9.12 Supporting scientific and education systems, development of digital agriculture and preparation of personnel complying with the market requirements</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 (Sub-point 18 of Paragraph 2, Subsection "2.4 Agriculture").</p> <p>Main objectives of the Action are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating a database using digital tools, which will consolidate the data of the Statistical Committee, Customs Service, Cadastre, International Databases concerning the agricultural sector and will form a unified database together with the data of the Ministry. The database will be used in the Ministry for the purpose of developing evidence-based policy; - strengthening the capacity of the sector, supporting the process of ensuring and replenishing the sector with persons with professional education, capacity building in the education system aimed at digital agriculture and innovation, state support, implementing programmes for preparing and training specialists; - providing consultation to economic entities in agriculture on agricultural knowledge, innovations, new technologies, effective management of

agriculture and ensuring access to information.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the Grant project "Agriculture Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building" is being implemented, which is at the stage of creation of databases and analytical tools, development of a system for data collection, elaboration of monitoring systems, access to international data, teaching and support. The most important issues of the current stage are the preparation of a database, the introduction of GIS (Geographic Information System) in the agricultural sector, the organisation of courses for the employees of the Ministry.

One of the important issues in the implementation of agrarian policy, raising the competitiveness and efficiency of the sector is the availability of specialists having modern professional knowledge, ability to deal with technologies and those with practical skills, ensuring smooth succession of generation in the sector of agricultural science, promotion of agricultural production with innovative solutions, development of on-line teaching platforms.

There are no initial data for the Action; the Action is at the stage of preliminary study. The existing issues are to train specialists knowledgeable in modern technologies for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the sector and to meet the demand for staff, to develop scientific-research and innovative activities, to produce competitive products, to increase labour productivity and to promote business initiatives.

At present, the low level of application of modern agro-technical rules and technological capacities, the need to increase the efficiency of economic activities of economic entities in agriculture, as well as the issue of increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by using modern information technologies in the field of agricultural management continue to be urgent.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of solving the current issues, it is recommended to support the training of specialists knowledgeable in modern technologies of the field, study the demand for training the specialists, participate in the activities of elaboration/review of state educational criteria of professions and of characteristics of the frameworks for sector-specific qualifications in compliance with agricultural development programmes and primary directions, to provide state support for the implementation of programmes for preparing and training specialists within the scope of educational and scientific-technical co-operation with other countries.

Taking into account also the fact that the development of agriculture is considered to be an important component of economic growth, but the attractiveness of agrarian professions is not high among the population, it is necessary to support the National Agrarian University of Armenia Foundation to implement measures aimed at raising the rating of agrarian education.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the implementation of the Action:

- a unique tool-kit of agrarian policy will be created, the application whereof will provide an opportunity for having ongoing up-to-date data for

	<p>elaborating a more effective policy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the availability of specialists competitive in the labour market of the sector, knowledge-based agriculture will be promoted; - as a result of the survey, demand for specialists in the agricultural sector will be formed expressed in digital indicators; - an innovative-business environment will be created, which will support the launching of applied research of agrarian educational institutions and the experimental economies, creation of mechanisms for introducing the achievements of applied researches into the agrarian sector; - the level of awareness of the economic entities in agriculture will be raised, professional knowledge will be improved, capacities will be strengthened, the effectiveness of managing the economies, the level of awareness about agricultural innovative technologies will be raised, investments in agricultural sector will increase; - ties between farm economy-marz consulting services-Armenian National Agrarian University will be strengthened (from the point of view of mechanisms/platforms and financial means).
10	<p><i>The implementation of the objective "10. Developing tourism. Visit of 2.5 million tourists, developing 20 tourism clusters, restoring 50 historical and cultural objects per year" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to ensuring the following targets and target results of the document (at least of indicators of 2025) "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":</i></p> <p>1. Indicators of target result 16.1 of the 16th action completely (page 55)</p> <p><u>10.1. Elaborating and implementing the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On tourism" and a number of draft legal acts deriving from the adoption of the Law</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the improvement of the legal framework in effect has arisen from the importance to strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Armenia and the Armenian tourism product in the global tourism market in conditions of dynamic development and current challenges characteristic of the field of tourism. The above-mentioned coincides with the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The elaboration of the draft law and other related legal acts sets the objective to improve the legal framework in effect as a result ensuring the necessary legal grounds for improving the collection of informative resources equivalent for the state policy implemented in the tourism sector, as well as for improving the quality of the services provided and the investment environment.</p> <p>Legislative ground for the elaboration of the planned documents — Point 1 of Article 87 of the Constitution. Point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia N HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p>

Sub-point 6 of Point 10 and Sub-point 17 of Point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 658-L of 1 June 2019.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Regulating legal relations concerning the introduction of administrative register and a system for record-registration of services and improvement of quality rating systems, improvement of business investment environment in the tourism sector.

The legislative package will be directed to the improvement of the statistical, information system in the sector and for that purpose also to the introduction of the administrative register, the service accounting system, to the improvement of the quality rating systems, to the improvement of business investment environment.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to develop a legislative package based on co-operation with the private sector and international partners and the study of equivalent international experience. In particular, the following is envisaged:

- clarifying the concepts used in tourism sector, defining concepts;
- collecting statistics accurately in tourism sector;
- improving the quality of tourism services, defining and preserving the standards for the services, envisaging the activities of tour operators, travel agents, tour guides, escorts, hotel service providers, tour passenger transportation operators for the purpose of ensuring full implementation of consumer rights, thus increasing the competitiveness of Armenia's tourism product, making the mentioned activities as activities subject to notification, improving the quality rating system of the hotel services, certifying and mandatory training the tour guides and escorts, as well as setting requirements for tourism information centres.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the action

The recommended legislative regulations will serve as a ground for the introduction of an administrative register in favour of the improvement of statistical, information system and the surveys and analysis necessary for adopting a policy in tourism sector.

Implementation of quality studies envisaged by the project, inventory-taking of tourism resources and development and promotion of new competitive tourism results based on its data, diversification of the Armenian tourism product and tourism markets, improvement of the quality of tourism services, ensuring the implementation of consumer rights will essentially contribute to the development of tourism in Armenia, raising the role of the Armenian tourism product in the global tourism market and raising the level of competitiveness of Armenia as a tourist county. The adoption of projects will have an essential investment in solving the issues of economic development in Armenia, proportionate territorial development of Armenia, development of infrastructures in marzes and communities, formation of additional sources of income, increase of employment in the Republic. It will also give a boost to the successful implementation of current tourism programmes and the development and implementation of new programmes, meanwhile contributing

to the diversification of the Armenian tourism product, development of tourism in communities, proportionate territorial economic development, human resource development, intensification of international co-operation, etc.

10.2. Approving and implementing the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia **"On approving the Strategy for Tourism of the Armenia"**

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of developing a strategy for tourism of Armenia is to create a common core document of the tourism sector, aimed at the effective implementation of the state policy of the sector. The necessity for the strategy derives from the existence of a system for targeted actions, to which the policy of the sector will be directed.

Legislative ground for the elaboration of the planned documents — Point 1 of Article 87 of the Constitution. Point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia N HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".

Sub-point 6 of Point 10 and Sub-point 17 of Point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 658-L of 1 June 2019.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At the current stage, the document in effect is the Concept Paper on the development of Armenia approved in 2008, which is no longer up-to-date. The actions included in the document need to be clarified and revised.

In the conditions of dynamic developments and new challenges characteristic of the tourism sector, due to the necessity for strengthening and increasing the competitiveness of Armenia and the Armenian tourism product in the global tourism market, a need to develop a strategy for the tourism sector has arisen.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The solutions will be aimed at conducting surveys and analysis, on the basis of which mid-term and long-term actions will be elaborated, which will be aimed at maintaining the dynamic growth of the sector. Appropriate resources need to be involved for the elaboration of the strategy.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The existence of the strategy and action plan/schedule for the development of tourism of Armenia will serve as a ground for planning and implementing the development processes in the tourism sector.

10.2.1 Developing a new tourism brand and forming new recommendations

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The implementation of the Action is aimed at ensuring the recognisability and competitiveness of Armenia and the Armenian tourism product, the diversification of the tourism product.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At the current stage, it is necessary to create a new tourism brand of Armenia, which will solve the issue of coming up with a unified message and an attractive visual expression.</p> <p>The lack of wide and attractive offers to tourists hinders the increase of tourist flows to Armenia, at the same time the lack of an on-line platform for acquiring packages has a negative impact on the process of selling the tourist product.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a new tourism brand of Armenia; - a recognisable tourism product; - an on-line platform, through which foreign tourists will be able to obtain tour packages more easily; - <i>Improved ranking of the country in the global tourism market</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>10.3 Collecting and digitising tourism data</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The improvement of tourism statistics and ensuring high quality surveys and analysis based on accurate statistical data is one of the main issues of the state policy conducted in the sector, which is also enshrined by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On tourism" and the Concept Paper on the development of tourism. The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned also by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>In co-operation with the [State] Tourism Committee of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, donor organisations in Armenia — the Federal Agency of Germany, the United States Agency for International Development and the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia — two statistical surveys have already been conducted in border crossing points of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The objective of statistical surveys is to collect the most reliable data on tourists arriving in the Republic and those leaving the country. The collected data will contribute to determining the geographical distribution of tourists, the purpose of arrival/departure, the gender and age pattern of tourists,</p>

	<p>options for organising the travelling, the structure of the expenditures made, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>At present, for the purpose of carrying out sectoral analysis, the data received as a result of the survey conducted in 2013 are used, which are no longer up-to-date and do not allow to identify the issues of the tourism sector in Armenia, to review the strategy for tourism, to elaborate new tourism packages and improve the quality of services provided in the tourism sector.</p> <p>It will be possible to carry out collecting and processing of complete statistical data on ensuring a stable basis for tourism statistics in Armenia, reflecting the entire tourism sector, including data on economic indicators, geographical distribution of citizenship of tourists, their gender and age, purpose, duration and recurrence of the visit, tourism behaviour and preferences of tourists, money spent in Armenia through conducting a statistical survey of tourism visits at the border crossing points of Armenia and, as a result whereof, through introducing a Tourism Satellite Account in compliance with the methodology elaborated by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the third sample survey on tourism visits at the border crossing points of Armenia will help to collect modernised data on the geographical distribution of tourists, purpose of arrival/departure, gender and age pattern, options for organising the travelling, structure of the expenditures made, etc., which will provide an opportunity for revealing the issues of the tourism sector of Armenia, elaborating new tourism packages and improving the quality of services provided in the tourism sector. The implementation of the Action is also a precondition for the introduction of a Satellite Account System in Armenia in the near future. The Satellite Account System will be aimed at collecting and processing complete statistical data of the tourism sector of the country, conducting accurate surveys and analysis.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>10.4 Developing domestic tourism</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Introducing the electronic system for management of services carried out within the scope of the social package by the State</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The purpose of introducing an electronic system for booking and reporting tour packages and separate hotel services within the scope of the service for ensuring recreation of the social package is to make the component of the service for ensuring recreation of the social package more transparent and controllable, not hindering the normal functioning of the private sector, to minimise the risk of possible abuses. The introduction of the system aims to simplify the functions of tour operators and other persons providing services (including persons providing hotel service) involved in the service for ensuring recreation of the social package, making the provision of services more accessible to the beneficiaries. The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned also by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>Within the scope of the service for ensuring recreation of the social package, tour packages and separate hotel services are currently sold by about 70 tour operators. Exercising control over the tour operators becomes more and more complicated, as well as detection of possible abuses by tour operators becomes more difficult. There are also many issues within the scope of the co-operation between the person providing hotel service and the tour operator (accumulated debts, providing services to the end consumer at a price lower than the retail price announced by the persons providing hotel service, etc.).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the existing issues, it is recommended to introduce an electronic system for booking and reporting tour packages, tours and separate hotel services within the scope of the service for ensuring recreation of the social package.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30% annual increase in domestic tourism; - Introducing the electronic system for management of services carried out within the scope of the social package by the State; <p>The introduction of an electronic system for booking and reporting tour packages and separate hotel services within the scope of the service for ensuring recreation of the social package will allow to prevent possible abuses, to have analytical information at any time on signed, sold, prematurely terminated contracts, number of beneficiaries, preferred directions, etc.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>10.5. Developing inbound tourism</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The implementation of the Action is aimed at ensuring the recognisability and competitiveness of Armenia and the Armenian tourism product, the improvement of the statistical information system, the diversification of the tourism product, the development of infrastructures and human resources, the activation of international co-operation.</p> <p>During the pre-election campaign in Shoghakat community of Gegharkunik Marz, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia noted: "Last year, tourist flows decreased because of the coronavirus, but we will restore all the possible infrastructures so that you have the opportunity to work and create."</p> <p>Legislative ground for the elaboration of the planned documents — Point 1 of Article 87 of the Constitution. Point 15 of the Annex approved by Law of the Republic of Armenia N HO-253-N "On the structure and activities of the Government".</p>

Sub-point 6 of Point 10 and Sub-point 17 of Point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On tourism", a tourism development programme is developed every year — "Support to the development of tourism" — which is continuously directed at the solution of the existing issues in the sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the framework of the implementation of the annual Programme "Support to the development of tourism", actions aimed at the diversification of marketing, tourism products, the development of human resources and infrastructures, and those aimed at ensuring international co-operation are envisaged.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

- Increasing the number of international tourists by 10% per year in average;
- Implementing advertising, marketing and other actions aimed at the involvement of airline companies carrying out flights to the Republic of Armenia and from the Republic of Armenia and development of directions already operating;
- Implementing marketing policy of tourism development:
 - o analysing international tourism markets and tourism development trends, selecting target markets. Active marketing events in new tourism markets in at least 5 markets per year;
 - o organising international tourism exhibitions, cognitive visits and presentations, organising 3-5 international tourism exhibitions, 3-5 cognitive visits and 3-5 presentations per year;
 - o co-operating with travel magazines;
 - o creating a database of advertising and information materials, videos and photos;
 - o creating a new official tourism website (including elaborating and regularly updating a calendar of events and celebrations), ensuring its functionality, content and translation and promotion;
- involving marzes of the Republic of Armenia into the tourism activities, at least 10 festivals, celebrations per year and ensuring support to implementation of other tourism events;
- support to activities of at least 7 tourism information centres per year;

- making Armenia a regional medical and health centre and founding a base for relevant proposals.

10.6 Co-operating with foreign states, regional and international organisations

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021. Developing the image of Armenia as a country favourable for tourism and ensuring Armenia's access to the global tourism market, increasing the rating of the country are among the main issues of the state policy conducted in the sector, which is enshrined by the Concept Paper on the development of tourism of the Republic of Armenia and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On tourism".

During the 66th meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe of UN World Tourism Organisation, held in Athens (Greece) on 2-4 June 2021, a voting was held for membership to the Executive Council of the UN WTO, to which also the candidacy of the Republic of Armenia was nominated. As a result of the voting, Armenia was included in the composition of the Executive Council of the UN WTO. According to which a decision was made to hold the 67th meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe of UN WTO in Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Armenia has been a full member of the UN WTO since 1997, it followed the activities of the organisation, where necessary, having a certain contribution to the programmes and initiatives, and actively participated in the events organised by the latter.

Organising the 67th meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe of UN World Tourism Organisation in Armenia is necessary for the expansion of co-operation with the UN WTO, active participation in the activities of the organisation and opening up new opportunities.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- effective co-operation with the Member States of the European Region of UN WTO;
- active participation in the activities of the organisation;
- active participation in the events, programmes and initiatives organised by UN WTO.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

- Organising the 67th meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe of UNWTO in Armenia
- Holding events, conferences of international significance in the sector of tourism in the Republic of Armenia, at least 1 event every year
- Negotiating and implementing new, more flexible and effective loan and grant programmes for the development of the sector of tourism with the

	World Bank, the European Union and others.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>10.7 Improving the quality of tourism services</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>For improving services in tourism sector, it is necessary to introduce systems for standardisation and regulation for the purpose of adjustment of certain quality standards for economic entities. One of the key components of providing high quality services is the requirements for serving personnel, for which access to training is provided in marzes of the Republic of Armenia. Types of adventure tourism proposals are expanding in Armenia, and staff having an internationally recognised certification is required by inbound tour operators (especially international representatives). The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, there are two voluntary certification systems for economic entities in the tourism sector of Armenia: they are facilities of hotel industry and tour buses. However, due to the diversification of tourism products in the sector, there is a need for other regulations, for example, certification of experiential tourism entities.</p> <p>Human resource provides low level of service in marzes of the Republic of Armenia, which causes the need to ensure highly specialised training courses.</p> <p>At present, the majority of persons carrying out adventure tourism in Armenia do not have internationally recognised certificates, which limits the increase in flows that prefer the given destinations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring accessibility of training for hospitality sector employees in marzes; - Ensuring an internationally recognised certificate for those engaged in adventure tourism. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introducing a system for tourism standards and quality services.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>10.8 Developing tourism infrastructures, approving draft Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "Tourism Village", "Tourism Centre"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the provisions of the Sub-section "2.5 Tourism" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021, as well as by</p>

	<p>the necessity for increasing the competitiveness of Armenia and the Armenian tourism product, the creation of modern infrastructures and their improvement. The Action is aimed at improving the access to tourist sites, creating and continuously developing tourism and other infrastructures in the places of primary interest in Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Implementation of the Loan Project "Local Economy and Infrastructure Development" of the World Bank launched in 2017, a number of sub-projects are being implemented and prescribed. At the current stage, a need for implementation of the project in accordance with the schedule has arisen, the selection and approval of tourist sites included in the project.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For solving the existing issues, it is recommended to improve the project management system, in particular to make changes in the composition of the project management committee, as well as to review the necessity for the working group. It is also planned to clarify the scope of the included tourist sites, the works to be carried out and to develop a new schedule within the framework of the first component of the Project (heritage hub regeneration and tourism circuit development).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on tourist sites, including on approving "Tourism Village", "Tourism Centre"; - Developing 20 tourism clusters, including Areni Hub - Restoring 50 historical and cultural monuments - The Programme "Infrastructures against Investments", by which at least 20 new tourism facilities will be established - Developing agritourism, in particular, implementing gastroyards and pubs programmes. At least 20 new agritourism objects. - Introducing a system for management of tourist sites and adjacent territories (clarifying responsibilities and obligations of agencies) in at least 50 sites - Diversifying tourism (creating new tourism directions and products), at least one new proposal in every marz - As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to increase the effectiveness of the Programme, to improve the tourism infrastructures, the access to the tourist sites, as well as to increase the involvement of the population of the communities engaged in the tourism processes. - Contextual equipping of the tourism proposal in at least 20 tourism objects, including by supporting gastro and cultural festivals and other events, including annual Yarkhushta Festival in Dashtatem castle.
11	<i>The implementation of the objective "11. Developing quality infrastructures" of actions of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia</i>

will contribute to ensuring the following targets and target results of the document (at least of indicators of 2025) "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050":

11 Developing quality infrastructure system

11.4 Review of technical regulations, procedures and standards for compliance assessment in effect in the Republic of Armenia, participation in development of newly formulated technical regulations of EAEU, procedures and standards for compliance assessment, development and coordination of new technical regulations to ensure product safety.

11.1. Enhancing laboratory capacities in the regulated sectors, in particular, re-equipping and replenishing with relevant equipment in certain directions in existing testing laboratories and forming missing laboratory capacities in the Republic of Armenia.

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

A requirement for direct application of technical regulations of EAEU in EAEU member states is stipulated by EAEU contract. Upon Decision of the EAEU Council No 526 of 2011, a list of 68 products is established, for which technical regulations should apply only within the EAEU framework, and setting requirements for products not included in the list will be prohibited. At the same time, having in place national legislation (or setting additional requirements) for the given products included in the List after entry into force of EAEU technical regulation is prohibited. Additionally, it is necessary to incorporate in national technical regulations still in force such standards/methods in line with internationally recognized standards, which will be intended to ensure and bolster production of safe products by local manufacturers, raise the competitiveness of products in both domestic, as well as foreign markets, reduce technical trade barriers and open up new markets for local products. Participation in the review of EAEU technical regulations in force, as well as in the development of new draft technical regulations is contingent upon modernising outdated or revoked standards included in the list of standards ensuring the implementation of technical regulations, incorporation of missing standards/methods into the list, review of new standard frameworks (compliance assessment procedures) in accordance with EAEU Decision No 44 of 2018, updating EAEU CN FEA codes, setting new contemporary requirements in alignment with advancement of science and technology or revision of set requirements. In this context there is also a need to develop new technical regulations for the Republic of Armenia and EAEU, review the requirements for national regulations in force and set new requirements, and set requirements for products containing nicotine within the EAEU, *i.e.* develop a new technical regulation.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, there are multiple national technical regulations in place in the Republic of Armenia, which are to be reviewed from the perspective of approximating them with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On technical regulation", EAEU contract, legislation in force in the given sector of EAEU, similar EU Directives. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On technical regulation", as well as agreement "On technical barriers of trade" stipulate a review of technical regulations at least once every five years. After accession by the Republic of Armenia to the Treaty of 29 May 2014 "On the Eurasian Economic Union", the process of approximation of national Technical Regulations of the Republic of Armenia to similar EU Directives has been halted, however, implementation of measures in this direction, bringing them into compliance with modern requirements is currently urgent and pressing, and this issue shall be tackled under the CEPA agreement. Taking into account the resumption of EU-Armenia cooperation, and at the same time

commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia by EAEU Treaty, a recurring necessity to review the national technical regulations in force has arisen. Currently, there is a low level of awareness in the field of standardisation, as well as in other fields of quality infrastructure, attributed to the comparatively limited initiative in the private sector and among domestic manufacturers. Standards ensuring implementation of technical regulations in force are often not modernised and are often not in line with standards adopted by International standardisation organisations, additionally the lists of standards ensuring implementation of technical regulations do not cover standards/methods ensuring all safety indicators and fail to meet contemporary requirements, they also do not address in full marketing processes and compliance assessment. The above-mentioned leads to production by domestic manufacturers of uncompetitive and unsafe products. EAEU technical regulations were developed and adopted in 2011-2012, however, due to scientific and technical advancements new standards have since been developed. The analysis of the lists of standards ensuring implementation of EAEU technical regulations, as well as information provided by interested parties revealed that the standards have become outdated, have been recognised as revoked or have been substituted with new standards. Additionally, there are specific indicators stipulated by technical regulations for which the methods ensuring compliance are absent. Upon analysing the current situation in the field, a need has emerged to modernise the technical regulations from the perspective of reviewing the standards, indicators and assessment procedures.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Currently, multiple national technical regulations are in place in the Republic of Armenia, where:

- the products covered thereby are already regulated by EAEU legislation, thus the requirements prescribed thereby should be reviewed, ensuring, where necessary, in the case an additional requirement prescribed for the given product by national legislation exists, their submission to EAEU to include them in EAEU technical regulations (where the existence of the given requirement is actual and stems from the interests of domestic manufacturers), in order not to contradict to the provisions stipulated by EAEU Treaty, they should be, where necessary, recognised as revoked (based on existence of compliance assessment documents for circulated products, their placement in the market within the validity period of assessment document, information obtained as a result of monitoring the expiration dates), products being objects are included in the EAEU list, but its EAEU technical regulation is missing (is in the drafting stage or is not yet developed), therefore it is needed to modernise/revise the national legislation for the given products.
- developing a new technical regulation, a regulatory legal act..

With regard to EAEU technical regulations:

- inclusion of standards of national interest of interested parties, as well as modern standards developed by international standardisation organisations in unified lists of technical regulations with support of National Body for Standardisation and Metrology, compliance assessment bodies, National Accreditation Body, as well as regulating bodies.
- defining requirements for products containing nicotine, ensuring the developing process of a new technical regulation and procedures related thereto.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing a draft EAEU technical regulation with regard to innovative products containing nicotine not regulated yet as of 2024 within the framework of EAEU, ensuring public discussion, ensuring implementation of procedures for domestic harmonisation of EAEU 2025-2026 technical regulation, submission of the draft to Eurasian Economic Commission in a second ten-day period of December 2026. - revision during 2023-2026 each year of at least 1 technical regulation of the Republic of Armenia and at least 12 EAEU technical regulations and standards, compliance assessment procedures ensuring the enforcement thereof, establishing at least 1 RA and at least 12 EAEU legal regulations in line with the requirements for economic and scientific advancement, modernising the sector. - protecting human health and safety, the environment in 2023-2026, upon necessity through elaboration of new technical regulations, as well as amendments to the existing technical regulations.
	<p><u>11.2. Forming and developing industrial metrological capacities, forming, launching and developing calibration laboratories</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Industrial metrology is the branch of metrology that ensures adequate functioning of measuring instruments used in almost all sectors, the traceability of measurements at the international level, which contributes to the development of those sectors, science, technology, economy, improving the quality of life of citizens. The existence of an industrial metrology centre, calibration laboratories replenished with equipment complying with the modern requirements, which will ensure a significant increase in the quality of metrological services of industrial enterprises, as well as the development of legislative and scientific metrology, plays a serious and fundamental role in the sphere of ensuring the uniformity of measurements. At present, the establishment of modern calibration laboratories covering the main metrological directions in the Republic of Armenia is very important, popular and urgent.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Action, the calibration laboratories will ensure the implementation of calibration activities, by creating pre-conditions for the development of scientific metrology, accuracy of tests conducted, correctness of measurements, calibration laboratories will be created in 6 directions, their accreditation and operation will be ensured. As a result of launching thereof, accurate and internationally traceable measurements will be taken in the sectors of military industry, healthcare, energy, nature protection, agriculture, mining industry, construction, metal-working, tool-making, in gas stations, accredited testing laboratories.</p> <p>At the same time, creating and operating the newly created, internationally recognised calibration laboratories in the composition of the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology, ensuring participation in inter-laboratory comparisons, professional qualification programs and CMC data publication in the database of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, being a linking bridge in the field of ensuring the uniformity of measurements at the national and international levels, calibration of national reference standards with the reference standards of the National Institute of Metrology of other countries, by ensuring membership of the National Body for Metrology with international and regional organisations, performing calibration</p>

activities in accordance with international standards, by meeting the current local demand in the sectors listed under this Action, will be ensured.

In the context of foregoing, the availability of competitive products being produced and exported will be ensured, as well as the main target of the Action — the accuracy and metrological independence/traceability of measuring tools and equipment used in various sectors of Republic of Armenia, and conduct of accurate tests, will be ensured.

The necessity for implementing the Action also derives from the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (2021-2026) approved by the Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — Section "2. Economy", paragraph 2 of Subsection "2.6 Quality infrastructure".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The main issues prescribed for the implementation of the mentioned objective are as follows:

- Establishing an industrial metrology centre in the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology in accordance with international standards, which will ensure metrological services operating under internationally recognised quality management systems (QMS) in the Republic of Armenia;
- Repairing the building and the laboratories of the Industrial metrology centre, acquisition of equipment, property necessary for laboratories;
- The need to develop the professional skills of the staff in the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology, to develop the skills needed to work with state-of-the-art equipment in some types of measurements.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Based on the analysis of the demand for equipment subject to calibration in the Republic of Armenia, the analysis of the range of measuring instruments included and applied in operating, accredited testing laboratories, in the sectors of legislative metrology, the establishment of the following 6 industrial metrological laboratories in the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology is paramount:

1. Laboratories for measurements of weight and related magnitudes);
2. Laboratories for thermal measurements;
3. Laboratories for measurements of force and related magnitudes);
4. Laboratories for measurements of linear (diagonal) magnitudes;
5. Laboratories for measurements of electric magnitudes;
6. Laboratories for measurements of chemical magnitudes.

The existence of the mentioned 6 industrial metrological laboratories will create preconditions for the development of scientific metrology, the provision

	<p>of high-quality metrological services and for meeting the existing internal needs of calibration.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Calibration activities will be implemented by calibration laboratories, by creating pre-conditions for development of scientific calibration, accuracy of tests conducted, correctness of measurements. Laboratories for calibration of weight and related magnitudes, thermal measurements and related magnitudes, force and related magnitudes, chemical magnitudes, electric magnitudes, linear (diagonal) magnitudes will be established, by ensuring accurate and internationally traceable measurements in the sectors of military industry, healthcare, energy, nature protection, agriculture, mining industry, construction, metal-working, tool-making, in gas stations, accredited testing laboratories. As a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in 2022, establishing laboratories for calibration of weight and related magnitudes, thermal measurements and related magnitudes, ensuring and operating accreditation; - in 2023, establishing laboratories for calibration of linear (diagonal) magnitudes; - in 2024-2026, establishing laboratories for calibration of force and related magnitudes, chemical magnitudes, electric magnitudes, linear (diagonal) magnitudes; - in 2023-2026, continuously taking accurate and internationally traceable measurements in the sectors of military industry, healthcare, energy, nature protection, agriculture, mining industry, construction, metal-working, tool-making, in gas stations, accredited testing laboratories; - in 2023-2026, continuously implementing accurate and internationally traceable measurements in the sectors of military industry, healthcare, energy, nature protection, agriculture, mining industry, construction, metal-working, tool-making, in gas stations, accredited testing laboratories; - in 2023-2026, continuously creating and operating the newly created, internationally recognised calibration laboratories in the composition of the National Body for Standardisation and Metrology, ensuring participation in inter-laboratory comparisons, professional qualification programs and CMC data publication in the database of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, being a linking bridge in the field of ensuring the uniformity of measurements at the national and international levels, calibration of national reference standards with the reference standards of the National Institute of Metrology of other countries, by ensuring membership of the National Body for Metrology with international and regional organisations, performing calibration activities in accordance with international standards, by meeting the current local demand in the above-mentioned sectors; - availability of competitive products being produced and exported; • In 2022-2026 continuously ensuring accuracy and metrological independence/traceability of measuring tools and equipment used in various sectors of the Republic of Armenia and conducting accurate tests.
	<p><u>11.3. Building capacities for compatibility assessment and accreditation, setting as a target the conclusion of multilateral recognition agreements with regional and international accreditation organisations (EA, ILAC, IAF) for international recognition of the National</u></p>

Accreditation Body.

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

One of the main objectives of accreditation is to create conditions for international recognition of the results of the accreditation activities of the National Accreditation Body, the documents (certificates of compatibility, test protocols, etc.) issued by accredited compatibility assessment bodies. For achieving the mentioned objective, the National Accreditation Body must be a signatory to the agreements on multilateral recognition of accreditation results. For meeting this requirement, the SNCO submitted an application to the EA Secretariat on 22 July 2016 to become an Associate Member of the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA).

At the same time, for the purpose of developing the capacity of the National Accreditation Body and increasing the effectiveness of the accreditation process, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia envisages elaboration, introduction and operation of an automation system for e-accreditation process.

The necessity for implementing the Action also derives from the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (2021-2026) approved by the Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — Section "2. Economy", paragraph 3 of Subsection "2.6 Quality infrastructure".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The SNCO is currently an associate member of the EA, but the compatibility assessment documents issued by the National Bodies for Compatibility Assessment are not internationally recognised. For achieving this, the National Accreditation Body must be a signatory to the agreements on multilateral recognition of accreditation results.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For concluding multilateral recognition agreements with the international accreditation organisations (EA, ILAC, IAF) for international recognition of a National Accreditation Body, it is necessary to implement the following:

- Bringing the accreditation legislation of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with international requirements;
- Developing the capacity of the NAB, continuously training the staff;
- Translating, introducing, localising the documents elaborated by regional and international accreditation organisations;
- Introducing a new ISO/IEC 17011-2017 standard into the National Accreditation Body;
- Improving the quality of services provided by NAB and CABs, ensuring transparency;
- Participating in workshops and summits of Committees on European Co-operation for Accreditation.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2022, carrying out the simulation assessments of capabilities of the National Accreditation Body by European Accreditation Experts, by providing corrective actions as a result thereof, developing and approving the internal procedures that meet the requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17011; - In 2022, drafting and adopting, by the Government, the Law “On making amendments and supplements to the Law “On the National Accreditation Body”” in 2023, the approval thereof by the National Assembly; - In 2023 submitting to the European Accreditation Organisation (EA) an application for international recognition of the National Accreditation Body; - In 2022-2024, building capacities of the National Accreditation Body — in 2024-2025, integrating into international and regional accreditation systems in the sector of accreditation; - In 2022-2026, ensuring accessibility, transparency of continuous accreditation, increasing the effectiveness of the accreditation process, including new sectors subject to accreditation by prescribing the legislative regulations; - In 2023-2026, introducing and operating the electronic system for the process of accreditation in the Republic of Armenia, ongoing capacity-building of the compatibility assessment bodies; - To conclude a Multilateral Recognition Agreement with EA in December 2024 the preliminary assessment of the National Accreditation Body by EA Assessment Panel is envisaged. - In 2025-2026, providing products and quality services entering the market, reducing time and financial resources necessary for performing compatibility assessment activities for the business environment — growth of volumes and increase in competitiveness of domestic products in the EU and third countries.
	<p><u>11.4 Reviewing the technical regulations, compatibility assessment procedures and standards in effect in the Republic of Armenia, participating in the elaboration of new EAEU technical regulations, compatibility assessment procedures, elaborating and co-ordinating new technical regulations for the purpose of ensuring the safety of products</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The EAEU Treaty stipulates the requirement for direct application of the EAEU technical regulations in the EAEU member states. EAEC Council Decision No 526 defines 67 products, for which technical regulations should apply only within the EAEU and defining the requirements for products not included in the list is prohibited. At the same time, the existence of national legislation (or the definition of additional requirements) for the product included in the list after the entry into force of the EAEU technical regulation is prohibited.</p> <p>In addition, the technical regulations in effect need to include standards/methods in line with internationally accepted standards, which will be aimed at ensuring and contributing to the production of safe products by local manufacturers, increasing the competitiveness of products both in domestic and</p>

foreign markets, reducing existing technical barriers to trade, and acquiring new markets for local products.

The participation in the review of the existing EAEU technical regulations, as well as in the elaboration of drafts of new technical regulations is conditioned by the modernisation of obsolete or repealed standards included in the list of standards/methods ensuring the implementation of technical regulations, the inclusion of missing standards in the list, the review of the new basic circuits (compatibility assessment procedures) conditioned by EAEU Decision No 44 of December 2012, the modernisation of the EAEU IEA GN codes by prescribing modern, new requirements or revising already prescribed requirements in parallel with the development of science and technique.

In this context, there is also need for elaboration of new technical regulations, normative legal acts of the Republic of Armenia and EAEU, revision of the existing technical regulations definition of national requirements for tobacco substitutes, revision of requirements for nicotine-containing products within the framework of the EAEU.

The necessity for implementing the Action also derives from the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (2021-2026) approved by the Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — sub-section "2.6 Quality infrastructure" of Section "2. Economy", completely.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, there are a large number of national technical regulations in force in the Republic of Armenia, which are subject to reviewing from the point of view of approximation of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On technical regulation”, EAEU Treaty, EAEU legislation functioning in the given sector, EU similar directives. The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On technical regulation”, as well as the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade define reviewing of technical regulations in force at least once in every 5 years. After the accession to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union by the Republic of Armenia on 29 May 2014, the process of approximation of national TRs of the Republic of Armenia to similar EU directives has been frozen; implementation of works in this direction, however, compliance with modern requirements is currently urgent and pressing which will be ensured within the scope of CEPA Agreement. Taking into account the resumption of the RA-EU co-operation, at the same time the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Armenia under the EAEU Treaty, there is again a need to review the existing national technical regulations in that context. At present, there is a low level of awareness of standardisation, as well as of other sectors of quality infrastructure, which is also due to the relative passivity of the private sector, the local manufacturer. Standards ensuring the implementation of existing technical regulations are often not up-to-date and are inconsistent with standards adopted by international standardisation organisations, or the list of standards ensuring the implementation of technical regulations lacks standards/methods ensuring all the safety indicators and does not reflect the modern requirements, as well as they do not ensure the implementation of the processes of marketing and compatibility assessment in full volume. The above-mentioned leads to the production of uncompetitive, unsafe products by local manufacturers.

The EAEU technical regulations were elaborated and adopted yet in 2011-2012, whereas as a result of scientific and technical development, new standards were elaborated. During the analysis of the lists of standards ensuring the implementation of the EAEU technical regulations, as well as in the result of the information provided by the interested bodies, it was revealed that the standards became outdated or were recognised as repealed or were

replaced by new standards. Besides, there are indicators set by the technical regulations, the methods ensuring the compatibility whereof are missing. As a result of analysis of the current situation in the sector a need has arisen to modernise technical regulations from the point of view of reviewing the standards, indicators and assessment procedures.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

At present, a large number of national technical regulations are in force in the Republic of Armenia:

- the product considered to be the object whereof is already regulated by the EAEU legislation, thus requirements set thereby must be reviewed by ensuring, where necessary, in case of existence of an additional requirement for the given product by the national legislation, their submission to the EAEC to include them in relevant EAEU technical regulations (where the existence of the given requirement is still up-to-date and derives from the interests of the local manufacturer);
- in order not to contradict the provisions enshrined by the EAEU Treaty, where necessary, they should be recognised repealed (based on the information received as a result of existence of documents of compatibility assessment for the circulated products, the placing thereof in the market in the validation period of the assessment documents, conducting monitoring of shelf life);
- the product considered to be the object whereof is included in the list of EAEC, but the EAEU technical regulation of which is missing (is at the design phase or is not elaborated yet), thus the national legislation for the given product needs to be modernised/reviewed;
- elaboration of a new technical regulation, normative legal act and defining new requirements, revising national requirements for tobacco products substitutes.

With respect to EAEU technical regulations:

- Including standards of national interest, as well as modern standards elaborated by international organisations for standardisation in the joint lists of technical regulations with the support of bodies considered to be interested parties — National Body for Standardisation and Metrology, Compatibility assessment bodies, National Accreditation Body, as well as regulating bodies and through the establishment of relevant working groups;
- Defining requirements for products containing nicotine – ensuring the process of elaborating new technical regulation and the procedures related thereto.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the implementation of the Action the following will be ensured:

- within the scope of EAEU, elaborating the draft EAEU Technical Regulation No 1 with regard to innovative products containing nicotine that yet are not regulated in 2022, ensuring public discussion, ensuring the implementation of all the procedures for domestic coordination of the 2023 EAEU Technical Regulation, ensuring final editing, approving it by the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission in 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - during 2023-2026, each year, revising at least 1 technical regulation of the Republic of Armenia and at least 12 EAEU technical regulations or standards ensuring the implementation thereof, the procedures for compatibility assessment — defining at least 1 legal regulation of the Republic of Armenia and at least 12 EAEU legal regulations operating in line with the requirements of economic and scientific development, modernisation of the sector. - In 2023-2026, protecting human health and safety, the environment, preventing unfair practice. - In 2023-2026, circulation of safe products, which makes about 95% of the volume of circulation of products in EAEU market.
	<p><u>11.5 Drawing up strategies for reforms of the constituent parts of the sector of quality infrastructure and approving it by the Government of the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by ensuring perspective orientation for the development of national quality infrastructure and by the reform of the existing system in such a way that it meets international requirements. This reform consists of a number of actions aimed at legal, institutional and capacity-building and awareness-raising in the sectors of standardisation, metrology, accreditation, technical regulation, compatibility assessment.</p> <p>Attaching importance to the role of quality infrastructure in the implementation of the strategic priorities of the country related to the export, complete integration of Armenia's quality infrastructure into the global system is envisaged.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to develop a mechanism for effectively controlling the reforms, to integrate the legal framework existing in the relevant sectors with the international requirements and implement it, as well as to strengthen the capacities of the target institutions.</p> <p>The necessity for implementing the Action also derives from the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (2021-2026) approved by the Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — Section "2. Economy", sub-section "2.6 Quality infrastructures" completely.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The quality infrastructure is an interconnected system (sectors of standardisation, metrology, accreditation, technical regulation, compatibility assessment and market surveillance) and currently the primary issue of the reform of the given system is to integrate the target institutions with the relevant international institutions, to ensure circulation of the safe and competitive products in the market and high quality of the services provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to reform national quality infrastructure and legal framework for the purpose of meeting the needs of economy and promoting exports - to re-construct the institutional framework of the national quality infrastructure and develop the services provided for the purpose of ensuring

	<p>transparency and impartiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to ensure the quality of the regulated and unregulated products entering the market for the purpose of raising the level of protection of the consumers - to pursue the acquisition of international recognition of the accreditation system for the purpose of providing reliable services for compatibility assessment - to pursue the acquisition of internationally recognised, traceable measurements for the purpose of receiving trustworthy laboratory results <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a result of the implementation of points/measures of the strategy for the approved sector-specific reforms, in 2023-2026 continuously ensuring a prospective development direction of the sectors of standardisation, accreditation, ensuring uniformity of measurements, technical regulations, compatibility assessment, relevant inspection bodies, enhancing legal, institutional capacities — bringing into compliance with international requirements, ensuring integration in regional and international structures; - In 2024-2026, integrating a national system for standardisation, measurement, accreditation system into the relevant international system/structures; - In 2025, correspondent and associated membership to international measurement institutions; - In 2025-2026, acquiring an internationally recognised accreditation system; - In 2025-2026, providing reliable compatible assessment services, internationally recognisable, traceable measurements, results of reliable compatible assessment activities; <p>In 2025-2026 increasing the competitiveness of circulating security products, proper supervision.</p>
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Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport	
N/N	SUBSTANTIATIONS
Education	
1.	<p>1.1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the State Programme for educational development in the Republic of Armenia by 2030" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p>

The main objective of the Action is bringing the reforms carried out in the education sector into compliance with the strategic directions of prospective development.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 2 of Section titled “4.3 Education” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, point 1 of Article 37 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education".

The objective of development of the current stage of education system is — by accepting the modern challenges and the principles of strategy — recording such results of solving the key issues and of progress that will restore the reputation of education and knowledge and will strengthen the reputation of Armenia as a scientific-educational area.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, there is no strategic document in effect that defines the targets, objectives, priorities of the education sector, which are the key factors for the implementation of an effective and targeted policy in the education sector. In addition, the preferences, priorities, existing issues, problems concerning the development of the sector need to be reformulated, as well as to be reviewed and generalised.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The draft will define the priorities for the development of the education sector of the Republic of Armenia, the principles and programme directions of the state programme/strategy, which will play a guiding role in synchronising the reforms at all levels of education. The draft state programme/strategy will be elaborated taking into account the Prospective Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Armenia, the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the challenges of the education system in recent years, as well as the UN's “Transforming Our World. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and Incheon Declaration “Education 2030. Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All”.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The draft state programme/strategy will contain approaches that will make sustainable and inclusive development of education more purposeful and effective. Further developments in the education sector will be implemented in accordance with the defined priorities and target indicators of development, which will contribute to the increase of overall competitiveness of Armenia.

1.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the strategy of preservation, protection, development, spread and popularisation of culture" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The main objective of the Action is defining the strategic priorities of cultural policy.

The necessity for the Action derives from Section titled “4.9 Culture” of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18

August 2021 “On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia” and part 4 of Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of cultural legislation”.

The strategy defines the cultural policy of the state in the field of art and culture, the concept of which is to create a creative and cultural country through cultural innovation, preservation, protection, transfer, international co-existence, public culturalisation, accessibility and inclusion.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, the sector of culture is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On the fundamentals of cultural legislation”, “On export and import of cultural values”, “On the preservation of intangible cultural heritage”, “On copyright and related rights”, “On preservation and use of the immovable historical and cultural monuments and historical environment”, “On historical and cultural immovable monuments that are considered to be the state property of the Republic of Armenia and are not subject to alienation”, “On archives”, “On mandatory copies of documents (ratifications)”, “On libraries and library work”, by UN and UNESCO Conventions “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, “For the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms”, “On the protection of the diversity of cultural expressions”, “On the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions”, “For the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict”, etc.

There are 70 SNCOs subordinate to the Ministry of Education, science, culture and sport of the Republic of Armenia carrying out cultural activities. Besides the above-mentioned organisations, the cultural policy of the state in the sector is implemented through the co-operation with other state community, non-governmental organisations, private sector and individuals for the purpose of creating favourable conditions, implementing multi-genre activities, as well as for maximum public integration in the sector for the organisations functioning in the field.

Issues in the sector of culture are the following:

- improving the legal framework of the sector of culture;
- ensuring the preservation and replenishment of museum and library collections, creating security systems by using modern technological and technical means, organising modern museum exhibitions, introducing modern information technologies in the system of popularisation and state record-registration, improving library information system, preparing and training specialists carrying out activities of restoration of cultural values;
- state record-registration of historical and cultural immovable monuments, drafting of protection zones and maintaining state cadastre of, studying, certifying monuments, compiling of state lists and creating information database, improving monuments included in tour routes, organising the serving of visitors, ensuring relevant guidelines and information plates, replenishing funds of historical-cultural and natural history reserves, museums of reserves, elaborating projects for research, fortification and restoration of monuments with funding from international grants, sponsorship and donation funding;
- ensuring the activities of theatres, musical ensembles, concert organisations, promoting the development of theatre arts and music arts,

organising leisure time, ensuring the activities of state non-commercial organisations;

- ensuring conditions for development of cinema art, include production of live-action, animation and documentary films, participation in film festivals and film markets, preservation, recovery and dissemination of film-photo-phono collection;
- participating in the regional, international programmes contributing to the development of the sector and expanding the co-operation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

An important mechanism for solving the issues existing in the sector is the regulation of the legislative framework, the introduction of modern management systems, the popularisation of Armenian culture and ensuring its positioning in the international cultural sector, ensuring access to cultural life and broad public participation therein, promoting the links between culture and education, ensuring the proportionality, accessibility and availability of cultural services in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, ensuring a favourable environment for the full expression and realisation of creative capacities.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Enhancing the efficiency of activities of state non-commercial organisations, concentrating financial means and professional resources, creating favourable conditions for professional capacity-building, presenting and positioning the Armenian culture on international platforms.

1.3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the strategy and the strategy action plan of the areas of physical culture and sports for 2022-2030" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The main objective of the Action is to upgrade and modernise the infrastructures of physical culture and sport system.

The necessity for the action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORTS" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. Sub-point d.8 of point d. of Article 7 of the law of the Republic of Armenia "On physical culture and sports" is the basis for the implementation of the Action.

The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to continuously provide state funding for the activities of the sector of physical culture and sports. The strategy will emphasise the importance of holding large-scale mass events, the activities of sports schools for children and youth, and the activities of sports federations. The implementation of the Action will reveal the gaps existing in the sectors of physical culture and sports, the infrastructures of swimming, shooting and other sports in the Republic of Armenia will be replenished.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In the Republic of Armenia, the sector of physical culture and sports enjoys state funding, which ensures the operation of sports schools for children and youth and two colleges (Yerevan State Sports College of Olympic Reserve and Gyumri State Sports College of Olympic Reserve), activities of

federations included in the state support programme (34 federations in 2020), activities of four multifunctional sports non-governmental organisations, teaching the subject of "Physical Culture" in general education schools, holding mass events, rewarding and allocating a lump-sum award at the end of the year to the coaches who performed well, allocating a lump-sum award at the end of the year to the doctors of the national teams of the Republic of Armenia, a lump-sum award at the end of the year to the best athletes, allocating nominal pension to the athletes, who performed well in national teams of the Republic of Armenia, their coaches and personal trainers, and allocating lifetime award to the world champions, medical service for the athletes of the national teams of the Republic of Armenia, conducting training of coaches and pedagogues, continuous replenishment of material and technical base sports schools for children and youth, national sports federations, other non-governmental sports organisations of the Republic of Armenia, as well as general education, secondary professional and higher educational institutions of the Republic. All the listed events are implemented by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. However, there are still many issues in the sector, and there is a need for a targeted approach and new allocations in order to solve them. One of the issues is the lack of a School of higher mastery, which makes it difficult for athletes over the age of adolescence to get trained.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the strategy and the strategy action plan of the areas of physical culture and sports for 2022-2030" will have an Annex, where an Action plan will be presented. The implementation of the actions will contribute to the continuous development of the sectors of physical culture and sports in the Republic of Armenia, consistent modernisation and replenishment of sports infrastructures.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The implementation of the Action suggests, that allocations will be made from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and other sources for the development of swimming, shooting, football and other sports infrastructures, steps will be taken to develop club sports in the Republic, to establish a School of higher mastery.

2 2.1. Adopting the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia on formation and distribution processes of the order of textbooks of general education institutions funded by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is extensively using the modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching and education.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The necessity for the Action derives also from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 4 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Education", Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of

Armenia No 65-N of 17 August 2021.

The necessity for adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia on the processes of ordering and distribution of textbooks is conditioned by amendments to the procedure for providing textbooks to the general education institutions, by the requirement to establish a unified procedure for providing textbooks to the general education institutions, including with advanced teaching of a foreign language, classes for national minorities, those where Russian is taught, as well as by the requirement to organise the process of distribution of textbooks.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

At present, the process of providing the general education institutions with textbooks is regulated by Order of the Minister of the Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 752-N of 21 August 2009 “On providing the educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia with textbooks, publishing the textbooks of general education subjects and approving the procedure for forming subject commissions for assessment of the compatibility of the textbooks with the state criteria of general education”. The registration of textbooks by educational institutions and the whole further process are carried out only on paper, due to the great human efforts, which is both labour-intensive and time-consuming.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

The process of ordering textbooks will become completely electronic. The process of circulation of textbooks and guidelines for teachers published by means of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and other means not prohibited by law will be carried out on the platform operated within a system run by the "National Centre of Educational Technologies" SNCO (NCET), where educational institutions can submit applications for the necessary textbooks, guidelines. Not only will the procedural issues be regulated, but also — as a result of making the process electronic — the quantitative difference between the textbooks and the learners of the educational institution will be minimised (excluded), which was not controllable before. Also monitoring will be established over the process of distribution of the textbooks.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

Formation and distribution processes of the order of textbooks of general education institutions funded by the State Budget are carried out transparently, misprints and errors are minimised.

2.2. Digitising the graduation documents

1.1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is extensively using the modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching and education.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, 3, points 5, 6 of paragraph 3 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives from point 9 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Education", Article 18 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 65-N of 17 August 2021.

The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity for reducing administration, developing digital tools and saving resources in the sector of general education. For the purpose of forming an open, transparent system for human resource saving, the "Education Management Information System" expands its joint system for collecting and analysing statistical data through the development of digital tools.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

At present, the activities carried out by general education institutions for the purpose of providing graduation document to the learners require great efforts, human resources and time. Inaccuracies and mistakes are not excluded during the implementation of activities.

Graduation documents are provided in paper form: it takes time, financial means; factors of losing them, verifying their liability, where necessary, and factors conditioned by other risks are not few.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

To digitise the graduation document issued by general education institutions to the learners.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

Graduation documents will be provided electronically, reducing the amount of funds allocated and the volume of human resources involved in the work, it will become available upon necessity.

2.3. Introducing electronic learning system in a given subject at schools with lack of subject teachers, developing electronic learning tools

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is the extensive application of modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching and education.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, point 6 of paragraph 3 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", the requirement for ensuring the indicator of the target result 9.4.1 of ACTION 9 "MEGAOBJECTIVES BY 2030" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050", the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 65-N of 17 August 2021.

Introduction of electronic learning system is prescribed for the purpose of organising high-quality education in schools having a problem of a subject

teacher. The programme for creating Mentor Schools Network and organising learning by using distance learning systems aims to provide equal high-quality education for all the pupils of schools of the Republic of Armenia, to intensify inter-school co-operation, to fill the shortage in pedagogical specialists in border schools or small schools, to support the development of professional skills of teachers, and to improve e-learning tools.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

The physical absence of a subject teacher poses a serious problem, especially in rural settlements, for learners to master the syllabus. 600-700 vacancies of teachers are reported annually, which are not replenished or are replenished with considerable difficulty. Moreover, it is not only about rural schools, but also urban ones. The headmasters of Yerevan schools also talk about the difficulty of finding a teacher.

In the near future, it is planned to launch the concept of a network school, in case of which the necessary infrastructures will be located in two-three nearby settlements, incorporating one school with a joint staff of teachers and pupils. This approach makes it possible to have a continuous educational process in all settlements, at the same time expanding the opportunities for forming classrooms and involving qualified teachers.

However, these intermediate solutions cannot be considered basis for improving the procedure of business trips of teachers, for improving the conditions for compensation of transport services, for regulating the issue and providing comprehensive solutions for them.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

In the best interests of the child and taking into account the right of the learner to receive equal education, as well as the importance of balanced development of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, the introduced e-learning system will make it possible to fill the gap of subject teachers through the classes taught by the specialists of mentor schools, due to which — in parallel with providing equal and accessible education — preconditions will be created for ensuring high rates of progress by the learners in marz communities.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

Schools will have the opportunity to enrich the teaching and methodological resources, to identify gifted children and participate in programmes initiated by mentor schools.

For the implementation of one of the strategic targets of the Government of the Republic of Armenia by 2030_ - Programme “Educational and Cultural Progressive and Proportional Development in Marzes” provided for by Action 9- importance will be attached to the objective “Territorial Reasonable Development in Marzes” of the same Programme “Let’s continuously raise the life quality standards by ensuring an opportunity for a “21st century” lifestyle for every settlement”, for the implementation whereof it is planned to achieve the index of “Pupils in marzes having higher than 80% of the average progress rate among the pupils of the Republic of Armenia” due to e-learning provided through mentor schools.

2.4. Digitising administration related to the processes of teachers training and attestation

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is extensive application of modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching and

education.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 3 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from Article 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 65-N of 17 August 2021.

The Action is implemented for the purpose of making the training and attestation process easier for teachers subject to regular attestation of the sector of general education, including educational institutions, reducing the administration and not repeating the process of downloading the data of a teacher during the next attestation, developing digital tools, which will ensure the effectiveness of coordinating the work and will provide an opportunity for preserving the data.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

In accordance with Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1667-N "On approving the procedure for training the teacher subject to regular attestation of an educational institution implementing basic programmes of general education", a relevant note "subject to attestation" shall be made in the personal file of a teacher subject to attestation for the given year in the education management information system by 1 May, as well as the headmaster shall download the document certifying the participation in the training course and the document on the collected credits, submitted by the teacher, into the Education management information system – in the section "Teacher characteristics". In the past, the whole process was carried out in the form of a document, which is labour-intensive, requires human resources and a lot of time.

2.1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

Carrying out the collection of the documents required for attestation electronically will make the process more effective. The downloaded data will be preserved in the electronic website up to the next attestation of the teacher by releasing the educational institutions from the obligation to perform additional work. That information will be available also for the relevant commission, thus there will be no need to transform this information in paper form.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

The administration related to the processes of attestation and training of the teachers will be reduced, the process of attestation of the teacher having undergone training will become easy, the information will be available for the relevant institutions.

2.5. Creating opportunities for the application of digital information technologies and elaborating mechanisms in the system of primary (handicraft) and secondary vocational education (PSVE)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Main objective of the Action is the extensive application of modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching

and education.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 2 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

In the modern society, civilisation developments are based on information processes, wherein information and telecommunication technologies have a decisive role. Their introduction in various sectors contributes to the informationalisation of education, which is an important condition for the reform and modernisation of the education process. Besides, the epidemic of Coronavirus demonstrated the importance of having knowledge of hybrid strategies of distance classes and learning, the need for new methods of applying ICT tools.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, the Professional education management information system is at the stage of elaboration and replenishment, which only partially solves the issues related to the processes of management of PSVE institutions and information flows by using information technologies.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In the modern educational sector, the technologies are used to demonstrate the teaching material in motion and development, to clarify it. New technologies contribute to raising the quality of education, their usage qualitatively changes the role of a pedagogue, the long and unattractive lectures are replaced by new methods and means.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

There is a study about the sector of application of information technologies in the system of primary (handicraft) and secondary vocational education. Educational institutions performing primary (handicraft) and secondary vocational education use information technologies in the management and organisation processes.

2.6. Modernising, with the introduction of a digital platform, the organisation process of education at the level of higher education using modern information and communication technologies (ICT).

2.7. Adopting the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia on elaboration and introduction of electronic platforms for the processes of organising the teaching process at higher education institutions

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Main objective of the Action is the extensive application of modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching and education.

The necessity for the Action derives from provision 8 of higher education reforms of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

Introduction of a flexible module system for organising education provides an opportunity to implement the management of the process of organising higher education effectively, through electronic systems. Digital platforms will be introduced in higher educational institutions, which will ensure flexible and transparent learning process. The objective of the Action is to improve the procedures for providing services by improving the quality of services provided to the beneficiaries and continuously reduce the corruption risks.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Learning by using modern information and communication technologies (ICT) in the learning process, as well as the methodology for teaching need to be reviewed. It is necessary to take the services provided to the beneficiaries to qualitatively new platform and to enhance the effectiveness of the educational process by using modern IT tools.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

New advanced teaching tools and methods of higher education will be introduced and used and the Electronic systems for learning management provide the opportunity to do so. At the same time, these systems enable higher educational institutions to improve the process of organising their education, increase attractiveness and expand the scope of co-operation with higher educational institutions of other leading countries.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Through the platform the learning process will be implemented by a flexible structure. The introduction of the platform in the higher educational institutions will enable to manage the time of the beneficiaries effectively. It will contribute to the improvement of the quality and enhancement of the effectiveness of organising higher education.

2.8. Full introduction of information system for the management of education at all levels of education

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Main objective of the Action is the extensive application of modern information and communication technologies in management systems of teaching and education.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 2 of Section titled "4.3 Education" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

In line with the trends of the current era of digitisation, important processes of transformation are taking place in the sector of education, which are key tools for reforming and modernising the global educational environment. Armenia is also caught up in this cycle of modernisation, and in this context the main objective of the Action is the introduction of a comprehensive education management information system and its interactive application with other systems, increasing the transparency, flexibility and relevance of processes, while reducing administration.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

	<p>Digitisation activities have already been launched within the system, mainly in the form of elaboration and gradual introduction of sub-systems of education management information system, but the electronic sub-systems of the sector still have problems from the point of view of creating complete databases, being operated, operating systemically, as well as interacting with other sectors.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to make the education management information system complete by including comprehensive data of all the levels of education, flexible tools and interoperable mechanisms.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result, the Education management information system will become a complete database of the sector, ensuring the application of flexible tools.</p>
3	<p>3.1. Elaborating the standards and methodology for the institutions to enrol in the list of building, capitally renovating and renovating of at least 500 kindergartens and pre-school institutions.</p> <p>3.4. Selecting the institutions subject to renovation, capital renovation and building according to the elaborated standards and submitting the final list to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>3.5 Reviewing the list of necessary items and equipment in accordance with the new criteria and syllabi and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>3.6. Implementing activities of constructing and renovating kindergartens and preschool institutions, replenishing them with property and equipment, in accordance with the approved Programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to increase the enrolment of 3-5 year old children in preschool institutions to 85%.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, 4 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives also from point 3 of Article 17, Article 48 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", Articles 23, 24 and 29 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On preschool education", Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 13 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 764-N of 13 May 2021.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is also conditioned by the necessity for fulfilment of pre-election promises given to the citizens by Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, during the visits to communities of the Republic of Armenia and the pre-election campaign (4-17 June 2021), as well as by point 6.2 of Guideline A of the 3rd guideline of Economic and Investment Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "Recovery, resilience and reform, Priorities of Eastern Partnership beyond 2020".</p>

The researches show that the preschool service has the greatest impact on educational outcome in case of enrolment for three years and more. According to the results of the research made by TIMSS, preschool service has the greatest impact on educational outcomes in case of enrolment for three years and more. The longer the child has been involved in pre-school service, the higher his (her) educational performance is at the end of elementary school, and vice versa. This indicates that in order to rapidly increase educational outcome, it is necessary to continuously expand and improve the availability and quality of pre-school services.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has set a target of ensuring enrolment of at least 85% of preschool-aged children, which means that in the coming years access to pre-school services should be provided for at least 23100 children, one of the goals for the implementation whereof is to build, renovate and repair the institutions, ensuring their complete replenishment with the necessary property and equipment.

No pre-school educational services are provided in about 260 settlements of the Republic. The financial resources of the communities of the Republic of Armenia are limited for building a relevant pre-school educational institution or for completely renovating the existing institution, thus there is a need to find alternative solutions in the sector and to make them applicable in the communities, preserving the existing pre-school educational criteria.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

Preschool-aged children make up about 236 thousand people, of which non-attending children make about 154 thousand, including about 62 thousand children in rural communities. At the same time, it is a matter of concern that children of the age group 1,5-3 are only 5419 people or constitute 6.2% of children in this age group who enjoy preschool services. Therefore, in the coming years, both the expansion of the network of pre-school services in rural communities, and the development of early childhood services in general, is a priority. Taking into account the fact that on average one pre-school institution is attended by about 90 children, there is a problem of building about 260 pre-school institutions or expanding the capacity of existing pre-school institutions by constructing new auxiliary building, by putting emphasis on rural settlements.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account the existing issues, it is recommended to focus the solutions on two main directions: to ensure the availability of pre-school services in all settlements of the Republic, through the construction of modular buildings, renovation of existing buildings, where necessary. In settlements where the number of children is small, it is recommended to provide alternative pre-school services.

In the second direction, it is planned to expand the availability of pre-school services in the communities where the number of children is large and the capacity of the existing pre-school institutions is insufficient. In this case urban communities are mainly referred to.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

The lists of pre-school institutions subject to primary construction, renovation and repair will be approved; the cost of the programme will be assessed.

The standards and methodology for enrolment in the list of building, capitally renovating and repairing will be drawn up.

The list of necessary items and equipment will be reviewed in compliance with the new criterion and syllabi.

The construction works will be carried out in the institutions included in the list, and these institutions will be equipped with necessary items and equipment.

The building and property condition of 500 pre-school institutions will be adjusted to the established requirements.

Expanding pre-school services, improving their quality, creating a complete environment for a child's development will ensure the high-quality outcome of general education, creating sufficient conditions for early childhood development.

The number of 3-5 year-old children involved in pre-school institutions will be increased to at least 85%.

3.2. Reviewing the content of pre-school education programmes: Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On approving pre-school education programmes"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

The main objective of the Action is to increase the involvement of 3-5 year-old children in pre-school institutions to 85 percent.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 2 and 4 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", point 4 of part 1 of Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On preschool education", Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 764-N of 15 May 2021. The objective is to review the content and the structure of preschool programmes, directing them to the final outcomes of learning.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

The state criteria of pre-school education was approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 13 May 2021; the criteria is called to ensure smooth transition to the elementary level of the general education school, based on the capabilities. After the approval of the new state criteria of pre-school education, it is necessary to review also the pre-school education programmes.

The existing programmes were elaborated and introduced about 8-10 years ago, and taking into account the results of international research on rapid changes occurring in some areas of child development a necessity has arisen to review them, in order they were in line with most important processes occurring in the Republic of Armenia and in international arena in the area of early childhood development aimed at the protection of children's rights, universal inclusion, improvement of the quality of education, promotion of diversity, smooth transition to school, etc.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The implementation of the Action will ensure the compliance of the criterion and programmes with the content of the provided education deriving therefrom.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

Implementation of the process of education and development of children under pre-school programmes — deriving from new state criterion of pre-school education — which are revised, upgraded and brought into compliance with up-to-date requirements.

3.3. Launching of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1169-N of 15 July 2021 "On establishing the procedure for financing pre-school educational institutions from the State Budget per one learner, including establishing the increased amount of financing required for ensuring special conditions for education and development"

1. Necessity for and objective of the action

The main objective of the Action is to increase the involvement of 3-5 year-old children in pre-school institutions to 85 percent.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 2, points 1, 2 of paragraph 4 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The necessity for the Action is conditioned by part 7 of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia " On pre-school education", Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 598-N of 17 April 2021. The objective of the operation of the procedure is to increase the level of enrolment of children in the pre-school educational institutions, including children from socially vulnerable families.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

At present, no pre-school educational services are provided in 271 settlements of the Republic. The financial resources of the communities of the Republic of Armenia are limited for building a relevant pre-school educational institution or for completely renovating the existing institution, thus there is a need to find alternative solutions in the sector and to make them applicable in the communities, preserving the existing pre-school educational criteria. At present, in 2019, there were 906 community, agency and non-state pre-school institutions (PSIs) in the Republic of Armenia, of which 701 were kindergartens, 70 were nurseries and kindergartens, and 135 were schools and kindergartens. Out of the total number of PSIs, 842 are under the subordination of the community, 10 are agency-owned, and 54 are non-state. The enrolment of children in PSIs (from among population aged 0-5) was 34.7%, in cities - 39.6%, in villages - 25.4%. The average number of children in one group was 26 children; the actual occupancy of places was 89.7%. On average, one PSI was attended by 91 children, and every pedagogue has to take care of 13 children. The total surface of the buildings of PSIs made 778.7 thousand square metres. The surface of areas adjunct (auxiliary) to PSIs made 747.2 thousand square metres. Among the 3-5 year-old population, the enrolment of children in PSIs was 64.4%. Moreover, compared to the previous year, the number of pre-school institutions has increased by 22, the enrolment of children among the population aged 3-5 — by 6%. According to the results of a comprehensive survey of household living conditions, in 2018, in general, almost 7 out of 10 children under the age of 6 (68.5%) did not attend any pre-school institution. The main reasons mentioned were that the mother of the child did not work - 39.5%, there was no kindergarten - 11.3%, and it was expensive to attend them and the pre-school institution was closed - 2.1%. One of the important indicators of accessibility is the distance of the nearest pre-school institution from the household. According to the results of the survey of 2018, 59.9% of rural households provided the response that the

pre-school institution was located at the distance of 1 km (of the poorest and richest quintile groups, respectively – 55.3% and 67.1%). At the same time, 5.4% of households answered that it was more than 10 km away. In recent years, the state has pursued a consistent policy of expanding the coverage of pre-school services.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The Action is aimed at promoting the increase in the enrolment of children in the sector of pre-school education, preparing children for elementary school, developing the capacities and skills of pre-school-aged children through the introduction of alternative and low-cost educational services.

Pre-school education is one of the most important guarantees for the further development of a person, which is proved by a number of researches. In addition to being a matter of primary importance for personal development, the development of a network of pre-school services provides an opportunity to increase the involvement of women in the labour market and significantly increase the opportunities for realisation of their potential and public development. The Government of the Republic of Armenia has declared the availability of pre-school education as one of the programme objectives of the Government, by stating by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 65-A of 8 February 2019 that: "In the sector of general education, the objectives of the Programme of the Government are to increase the level of accessibility and availability of pre-school education in all communities, by increasing the enrolment of children over the age of 3 to 70% by 2023".

On 6 May 2020, the National Assembly adopted amendments to the Law "On Pre-school education", which enshrined the possibility for introducing alternative models of pre-school education. Accordingly, it is envisaged that, especially in communities and settlements having small number of population, where the number of beneficiaries is small and it is necessary to consider also the cost-effectiveness for the introduction of pre-school services, alternative pre-school services may function, which may be organised through various formats, for instance as a home kindergarten, mobile services.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

As a result of the implementation of the Action, different social groups will receive expanded opportunities to enjoy pre-school services, the activities of pre-school institutions, especially in rural communities, will have more stable and continuous nature due to state support, the methodology for financing the pre-school institutions will be clarified serving as a guideline for the entire sector.

The implementation of the legal act will be the basis for promoting the enrolment of children in the sector of pre-school education.

3.7. Introducing alternative cost-effective pre-school models

1. Necessity for and objective of the legal act

The main objective of the Action is to increase the involvement of 3-5 year-old children in pre-school institutions to 85 percent.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 2, points 1, 2 of paragraph 4 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

	<p>The necessity for the Action derives from Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education”, Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On pre-school education”, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 764-N of 15 May 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the presented draft is to introduce alternative, cost-effective models of pre-school educational services in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:</p> <p>In recent years, because of the influence of a number of objective and subjective factors, the pre-school system of the Republic of Armenia has found itself in an unfavourable condition, as a result of which the number of pre-school institutions, the capacity of existing institutions and the enrolment of children therein has decreased. Pre-schools institutions are under the subordination of the community and any problem related to their activities is directly addressed to the budgetary means of the given community. As a result, unequal conditions are created among children of pre-school age.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport recommends – by studying the measures taken in recent years by partner organisations (UNICEF Office in Armenia, Armenian representation of “Save the Children International” organisation, Astghatsolk NGO) – cost-effective models, as a result of introduction whereof it will be possible to expand the enrolment of children in pre-school education, as well as apply effective mechanisms in management, form alternative pre-school education institutions in the multi-settlement communities of the Republic, which will provide an opportunity for increasing the enrolment of children in pre-school services and provide access, especially for socially vulnerable families.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:</p> <p>Provide an opportunity to local self-government bodies to make pre-school education accessible to all pre-school-aged children through the introduction of alternative models.</p>
4	<p>4.1. Elaboration of a tool-kit for assessment of the need for special conditions for education and development among children of pre-school age and approval of that tool-kit by the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport</p> <p>4.2. Transition to universal inclusiveness in Syunik, Lori, Tavush Marzes and in the city of Yerevan of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>4.3. Transition to universal inclusiveness in Ararat, Kotayk, Shirak, Gegharkunik, Aragatsotn, Vayots Dzor, Armavir Marzes of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to switch over to a universal inclusion in all pre-school institutions of the Republic.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, point 3 of paragraph 4 of Section titled “4.3 EDUCATION” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>According to part 3 of Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-267 "On making amendments to the Law “On pre-school education”, it is</p>

	<p>envisaged to pass to universal inclusion in the field of pre-school education by the end of 2023, thus the Government of the Republic of Armenia intends to provide universal inclusion in the sector of pre-school education by the end of 2023. For this purpose, the Action plan and schedule of the introduction of the universal inclusive education system in the sector of pre-school education of the Republic of Armenia was approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 598-N of 15 April 2021.</p> <p>1.1 Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:</p> <p>At present, pre-school education is generally difficult to access for children in need of special conditions for education and development. Few institutions have the experience of inclusion, while inclusion at an early age contributes to a significant increase in the further inclusion and educational outcome, as well as effectiveness of socialisation of children in need of special conditions for education and development. Therefore, it is a matter of priority to ensure inclusion opportunities from early childhood to prevent deepening of further problems and to ensure equal conditions for the education and development of all children.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>It is necessary to carry out the necessary adaptation works in all the pre-school institutions, which are not adapted for children with special needs — to build ramps, to adapt the toilets. It is also necessary to train the staff of pre-school institutions to work effectively with children in need of special conditions for education and development, to elaborate and provide the necessary methodological tools, to carry out awareness-raising activities, to attach the pre-school institutions to local pedagogical-psychological support centres for assessment of further needs and provision of services.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:</p> <p>The tool kit for assessment of pre-school aged children in need of special conditions for education and development is elaborated according to the required criteria.</p> <p>The tool kit for assessment of pre-school aged children in need of special conditions for education and development is elaborated according to the required criteria.</p> <p>All pre-school institutions operating in Syunik, Lori and Tavush Marzes and in Yerevan have transited to universal inclusiveness.</p> <p>All pre-school institutions operating in Ararat, Kotayk, Shirak, Gegharkunik, Aragatsotn, Vayots Dzor, Armavir Marzes have transited to universal inclusiveness.</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the basis for the right to equal education, access to and availability of pre-school education, enshrined by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, appropriate adaptations have been made in all pre-school institutions for children with special needs – ramps are built, toilets are adapted, relevant specialists are involved.</p>
5	<p>5.1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On pre-school education" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p>

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is the introduction of an interconnected mechanism for promotion, ongoing professional development and remuneration of teacher-educators.

The necessity for the Action derives from point 4 of paragraph 4 of Section “4.3 EDUCATION” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, the requirement for ensuring the indicator of the target result 5.4.1 of ACTION 5 /page 44/ of “MEGAOBJECTIVES BY 2030” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050”.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia intends to introduce interconnected mechanisms for career advancement, continuous professional development and continuous increase of salaries of pedagogues in the sector of education, which will allow ensuring continuous development of professional skills, improvement of working conditions in the sector, the result of which will be the improvement of the quality of education and the services provided. The objective of the legislative amendment is to enshrine the provisions of mandatory training and attestation of employees, further linking them to the remuneration policy.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

At present, there is no unified mechanism for salary and professional development in the sector of pre-school education, salaries in the sector are very low and the opportunities for professional development are limited and segmental.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

The provision of mechanisms for the training, professional quality improvement, attestation, enhancement of the quality of work and remuneration of the heads and pedagogues of the pre-school institutions will have a positive impact on the quality of education provided.

It is necessary to create a mechanism for selecting pedagogues in parallel with providing an opportunity for professional advancement of pedagogues of all the pre-school educational institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

The interconnected mechanism for promotion, ongoing professional development and ongoing increase of remuneration of pedagogues will be enshrined by the legislation.

Encouraging the remuneration of employees in the sector will stimulate the entry of new and qualified specialists, providing the preconditions for the continuous improvement of the quality of pre-school services.

The introduction of a mechanism for attestation of pedagogical staff of pre-school institutions will significantly improve the quality of appropriate services provided in the first level of education.

5.2. Adopting Orders of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for selection (appointment) of pedagogical workers of a pre-school education institution" and "On approving the training procedures for directors and pedagogical workers of a pre-school education institution"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is the introduction of an interconnected mechanism for promotion, ongoing professional development and remuneration of teacher-educators.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, 4 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by fulfilment of the requirement of point 5 of part 1 of Article 24 of the Law "On pre-school education", Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 764-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 515-N of 10 April 2021, the requirement for ensuring the indicator of the target result 5.4.1 of ACTION 5 /page 44/ of "MEGAOBJECTIVES BY 2030" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050".

The need for systematic trainings prescribed for headmasters and pedagogues of pre-school educational institutions stems from the need to strengthen human resources through trainings.

1.1 Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

The mechanisms for selection and appointment of pedagogical staff of pre-school educational institutions are not yet elaborated, as a result of which specialists who have not received professional education and who lack the necessary pedagogical-psychological skills enter the system. Often the entry of the latter into the institution is conditioned by the arbitrary decisions of the headmasters, which is fraught with corruption risks.

There are no mechanisms in pre-school educational institutions for selecting pedagogues, which sometimes leads to consequences of the activities of an unprofessional group deprived of opportunities for professional advancement, which cannot provide the desired quality.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

The legislation will enshrine the mechanisms for selection (appointment) of pedagogical staff of pre-school educational institutions, which in its turn will create preconditions for ensuring the entry of qualified specialists into institutions.

It is necessary to provide the pedagogues of all pre-school educational institutions with an opportunity for professional advancement in parallel with creating a mechanism for selection. The inclusion of professionally educated, continuously trained pedagogical staff and those having the opportunity for increase in the salary in the system will provide a solid basis for significantly improving the quality of pre-school education.

The procedures for attestation, training, class awarding of pedagogical staff of pre-school institutions will be elaborated and approved.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

In the context of the content review of pre-school education, the mentioned measure will be a basis for replenishing the system with qualified specialists on a competitive basis, will promote the qualitative reform of provision of early childhood care services, the provision of high-quality education through specialists with relevant professional skills, will ensure a smooth transition of children to general education environment and will have a direct impact on the educational outcome of a learner of an elementary class.

The pedagogical staff of the institutions will be selected through a competition; during their activities they will have the opportunity to undergo training, attestation, as well as to have a qualification category.

The trainings will give the pedagogical staff an opportunity to master modern information technologies, to get acquainted with the innovations of the sector. The sowing of a collaborative work style among the pedagogical staff will contribute to the improvement and modernisation of the educational process.

Mechanisms for enhancing professional qualities of headmasters and pedagogical workers, those for increasing the efficiency of planning, organising and feedback analysis of the educational process will be introduced.

The availability of qualified specialists for the provision of education will be ensured, influencing the educational outcome.

5.3. Conducting training courses for directors and pedagogical workers of a pre-school education institution

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

Main objective of the Action is the introduction of an interconnected mechanism for promotion, ongoing professional development and remuneration of teacher-educators.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 4 (point 4) of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives from Articles 5, 11 and 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On pre-school education", Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 744-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 764-N of 15 May 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 515-N of 10 April 2021, the requirement for ensuring the indicator of the target result 5.4.1 of ACTION 5 of "MEGAOBJECTIVES BY 2030" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050".

The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity for fulfilment of pre-election promises given to the citizens by Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, during the visits to communities of the Republic of Armenia and the pre-election campaign (4-17 June 2021).

The main precondition for the emergence of the problems in pre-school institutions is the lack of professional skills of pedagogical staff, which often has a significant and continuous impact on the further development of the child.

The issue of training, professional quality improvement, attestation, as well as ensuring a system for management and supervision of pedagogical staff of pre-school institutions is not regulated.

Continuous professional development of pedagogues of pre-school educational institutions is aimed at improving the quality of service in the sector, which is correlated with increasing the remuneration of pedagogues of the institutions.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

The selection of specialists is not carried out on a competitive basis, causing a number of consequences.

The opportunities for organising education in the pre-school institutions of urban and rural communities of marzes of the Republic of Armenia are very different; most of the staff working in the system has neither professional qualification, nor teaching-methodological, pedagogical-psychological capacities related to the implementation of the process.

There are no mechanisms for professional advancement of pedagogues in the existing pre-school institutions; the issue of remuneration of specialist is not solved; the salary is low, jobs are unattractive, productivity is significantly low.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

Through continuous trainings, it is necessary to ensure the opportunity for professional advancement of pedagogues of all pre-school educational institutions, to develop an interconnected mechanism for continuous professional development and continuous increase of remuneration.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

Training courses for headmasters and pedagogical workers of a pre-school education institution are planned to be carried out (about 900 headmasters, 6000 pedagogical workers).

The outcome indicator of the provided educational programme will increase in the pre-school educational institutions, which will have a continuous great impact on the educational outcome of the school in the future.

The implementation of the Action will create grounds for the provision of accessible, publicly available and required high quality services of early childhood care and development, including the provision of high-quality services of babysitters-pre-school teachers.

The attractiveness of work of a specialist in pre-school educational institutions will increase; a competitive field will be created.

A legislative basis for legal guarantees will be created for ensuring the continuity of pre-school services, training, professional development, attestation of pedagogical staff of pre-school institutions, regulation of activities of institutions and development of the normative field, as well as for ensuring a

	control system.
6	<p>6.1. Establishing laboratories for natural sciences and ICT in all schools of Tavush Marz to test state standards of general education</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to create a universally accessible and available learner-oriented general education environment.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, points 1, 2 of paragraph 3 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 4, 5, 9 and 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021, Articles 4, 5 and 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education".</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the fulfilment of point 2 of the 3rd guideline of Economic and Investment Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "Recovery, resilience and reform, Priorities of Eastern Partnership beyond 2020".</p> <p>For the purpose of attaching new content to the 12-year education, the revised general education criteria, syllabi and curriculum are designed to stimulate the learner's critical, innovative thinking, analytical and creative skills, with a particular focus on capacity development. In order to effectively test all the subjects, including STEM programmes and criteria — elaborated in accordance with this principle — in Tavush marz, it is important to equip schools with ICT laboratories, as a result of which the learners will study the natural science subjects in laboratories equipped with modern resources.</p> <p>The result of testing the new criteria in Tavush marz is important from the point of view of introducing it in all schools of the Republic of Armenia in the future, in which the provision of schools with ICT laboratories and their effective application accompanied by the method of practical teaching play a great role.</p> <p>1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:</p> <p>Schools of Tavush marz do not differ from almost all schools of the Republic of Armenia considering the indicator of general replenishment with ICT equipment, which can be a serious obstacle in the process of testing new criteria.</p> <p>Large is the number of schools having computers of old generation, computers with technical problems or not-working computers, therefore, in terms of the effectiveness of testing new criteria, it is very necessary to equip all educational institutions in Tavush marz with laboratories of natural science and ICT laboratories.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>Establishment of ICT laboratory infrastructures in all schools of Tavush marz is a priority, which will be a basis for improving the quality of education in</p>

the field of natural sciences using the method of practical training. The learners of the marz will have the opportunity to enhance their capacities through practical work, which is the main requirement for the graduate according to the new criteria.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

The necessary infrastructures will be available at all schools in Tavush Marz for the purpose of implementing subject education with new standards.

The educational environment in the sector of STEM will be improved by providing the necessary physics, chemistry, biology, geography, ICT laboratory equipment, materials and property, as well as the necessary computer equipment to the general education schools of Tavush marz.

Providing all the schools of the marz with the necessary infrastructures, the subject education will be implemented with new approaches, using practical teaching methods, which will be a guarantee for improving the quality of education, especially in the sector of STEM.

6.2. Establishing necessary laboratories for natural sciences and ICT in about 1400 schools for the introduction of standards

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

The main objective of the Action is to create a universally accessible and available learner-oriented general education environment.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2, points 1, 2 of paragraph 3 of Section titled "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 4, 5, 9, 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021, Articles 4, 5 and 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", the requirements to ensure the fulfilment of point 2 of Section "AMBITIONS FOR 2030-2040" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050", for reasons of laying the groundwork in the sector of general education.

The implementation of the Action is also conditioned by the fulfilment of point 2 of the 3rd guideline of Economic and Investment Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "Recovery, resilience and reform, Priorities of Eastern Partnership beyond 2020".

Equipping schools with laboratories of natural science and ICT laboratories is a major problem. The programme for replenishing with laboratory equipment was implemented only for separate operating high schools. In 2019-2020, schools were provided with laboratories of natural sciences in order to test the new criteria of general education. It is planned to provide laboratory equipment to all schools in Tavush marz within the framework of the Grant Project EU4Innovation. However, it is obvious that the establishment of laboratory infrastructures in all schools is a priority, which can be a good precondition for improving the quality and efficiency of education in natural science. In this regard, according to market research and calculations made, in order to effectively introduce the new criteria of general education, it will be necessary to establish the necessary natural science and ICT infrastructures in about 721 schools, in the frameworks of total amount equivalent to about \$ 34 million.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

At present, the learner/computer ratio in the schools of the country is 16,8. In the general consolidation of schools, most of the schools have 10 computers. The most common indicator of working computers is 3. The first part of schools has up to 12 computers; the other part has less than 12 computers. In case of working computers, the mentioned indicator equals 7. Only 25 % of schools have more than 13 working computers. At schools, the total number of not working computers is 6512, out of which 4433 do not work because of technical reasons, 1219 — because of software reasons. Moreover, 78.7 % of not working computers is subject to write-off. About half of working computers — 52.8% — used in schools are Pentium 4 and of older generation, 47.2% — Dual core and newer generation. If we want to know what part do the working computers make out of the total number of computers in schools, we will see that in 494 schools or in 36.9% of the total number of schools 76-100% of the computers work, in 31.8% working computers make 51%-75%, and in other 31.4% of schools only 0-50% of computers work.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

In the process of replenishing the schools of the Republic of Armenia with laboratories, taking into account the factor of cost-effectiveness, to establish about 257 laboratories on the principle of network school, i.e. to establish separate subject-oriented laboratories in rural schools with small number of pupils, combining them in one environment, when, for example, chemistry laboratory is located in one settlement, physics in another, geography - another. In order to ensure high-quality education, to integrate settlements with a small number of pupils into one educational environment, not only in terms of infrastructures, but also in terms of the number of learners needed for effective grouping of classrooms. Provide guarantees for improving the quality of education by applying also practical training methods.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

The necessary laboratory infrastructures for teaching according to new standards of general education are available at all schools of the Republic of Armenia.

The educational institutions are equipped with modern laboratory equipment.

Prerequisites have been created for implementation of the 2nd long-term ambitions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the sector of general education for 2030-2040 — target “taking a leading position in the world in the number of entrepreneurs per 1 million population per capita in terms of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics” of the Programme "STEAM" - WIDE EXPANSION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP".

6.3. Organising the teaching of regional languages in general education schools

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:

The main objective of the Action is creating a universally available and accessible learner-oriented general education environment.

The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 1 of Section titled “4.3 EDUCATION” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The necessity for the Action derives also from points 2 and 2.1 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education".

Knowing the languages of foreign nations, including neighbouring ones, is dictated by the need of multilayer social, cultural, tourism, religious, trade and economic, scientific and educational interrelations and the need to respond to the geopolitical and strategic challenges of Armenia.

Although because of the historical events various diplomatic and co-operation relations have been established with our neighbouring countries in the region, and they still remain very diverse and unique, teaching of regional languages in our country should be carried out in small but visible steps.

It should be borne in mind that peoples are not identical with states, and knowledge of the language should be considered especially in the local, regional and global context of the current key issues and challenges of the Republic of Armenia. Knowledge of the language will make an individual an informed, responsible and patriotic citizen who knows how to study, analyse and respond to situations.

1.1. Ongoing situation and existing issues of regulation:

Teaching foreign languages through existing syllabi is not effective in terms of mastering, communicating and does not ensure a sufficient level of language acquisition by the learner, even in advanced foreign language classes.

From a strategic point of view, the issue of teaching regional languages is also a key issue.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

Prioritise the issue of programmed teaching methodology of foreign languages in order to increase the level of their acquisition through carrying out the teaching with new subject standards and programmes.

Organise regional language teaching according to the needs of each community through the establishment of club learning centres, teaching Georgian, Persian and Turkish, depending on the geographical location.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

The recommended approach will provide an opportunity for promoting the increase of the level of mastering foreign languages, including regional languages, by the learners; it will create a sufficient basis for learning foreign languages and will solve the issue of language learning, which is of primary importance.

Club training centres for teaching regional languages will be established according to the geographical location and according to the needs of the community.

6.4. Introducing state standards of general education at all schools of the Republic of Armenia

6.5. Providing all schools of the Republic of Armenia with new textbooks in accordance with the state standards of general education

6.6. Development of media literacy skills of learners

6.7. Introducing an institute of professional orientation at schools

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action:

The main objective of the Action is creating a universally available and accessible learner-oriented general education environment.

The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The obligation for the Action also stems from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 4, 5, 9 and 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education"; the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021; Articles 4, 5 and 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education"; Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 65-N of 17 August 2021; the requirement for achieving the target results 1.2 of ACTIONS "1. EDUCATED AND COMPETENT CITIZEN, NATION" of "CORE OBJECTIVES BY 2030" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050" /page 41/.

The content of general education in the Republic of Armenia is regulated by the state standard of general education, and the process of education conducted by the documents in force does not ensure the availability and progressiveness of high-quality education. There are low rates registered by international follow-up visits and major problems traced.

In particular, the average score for mathematics of the 12th grade pupils in large towns is 14.3 (out of 20), compared to the average score of pupils in border and remote villages which are 12.1 and 11.9 respectively. The scores for exams conducted at the end of the 9th grade were 13.3 (large towns), 12.3 (border areas) and 12.5 (remote villages). The results of the TIMSS international follow-up visit confirm the already described situation of the difference in the level of education in urban and rural residential areas. The results of the follow-up visit especially show a big difference between the results of mathematics and natural science subjects among the 4th and 8th grade pupils living in urban and rural areas, in favour of the urban pupils. Moreover, while looking at the TIMSS results it becomes clear that the scores for mathematics in 2015 were lower than in 2003, while in natural science they remained the same.

By the adoption of the new standard, an attempt is made to respond to the above-mentioned issues and create appropriate bases for organising the general education more flexibly and effectively.

An important precondition for improving the quality of general education is ensuring high-quality education of learners in compliance with the requirements of the state standard, as a result of which importance is attached to the learner's capacity building.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:

By Decision No 136-N of 4 February 2021 the Government approved the state standard of general education, and new conceptual approaches are proposed particularly in organisation of teaching process, use of tool-kits, evaluation mechanism based on the subject related standards and

programmes stemming from such general education standards.

The existing standard provides incomplete opportunities to general education:

Limited tool-kit for teachers, teaching based on passive transfer of the main thematic material, prevalence of quantitative assessment - semantic distortion of the educational process through a monopoly tool of encouraging with a high score and punishing with a low score;

Prevalence of social labelling in the consequence of unsatisfactory score, and unjustified satisfactory scores.

There is need to provide educational institutions with textbooks compiled in line with the subject standards and programmes stemming from the new standard.

It is planned to introduce an institute of professional orientation at all schools of the Republic of Armenia, which will provide the learners with an opportunity to choose a future profession.

As a result of the implementation of the Programme, professional orientation centres will operate in the institutions of general education of the Republic, which will contribute to the informed choice of profession by the learners, creation of a better labour force and improvement of formal and informal education systems developing the labour competitiveness of the young people, the development of youth entrepreneurial potential, as well as improvement of youth policy.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

In contrast to the current standard, the new standard adopts a more systematic approach to final outcomes in the form of eight competencies.

Based on the results of testing of the standards, the educational materials and textbooks will completely be reviewed, ensuring their compliance with the new subject related standards and programmes to be implemented at all schools of the Republic of Armenia.

Under the new standard, evaluation is linked to capacities: this is the only way to fully operate competency-based learning, which increases the likelihood that we will have learners who will not view themselves as passive consumers of knowledge and will become an active factor in the development of society.

The fact that the individual who has chosen a profession and a job in accordance with his/her abilities, which is more beneficial to him/her and the society, has become a basis for the need for elaborating processes for professional orientation, selection of profession, scientific substantiation and methodology.

Both in terms of inclusion and content, the primary and main forum of professional orientation is the system of general education, where the activities of orientation commence, evolve and are generally completed.

One of the primary issues of graduates of a general educational institution is to make a knowledgeable choice of a profession. At present, conditioned by free economic relations, it becomes more modern and urgent. In light of development of the latest technologies new education and labour markets,

new requirements are set for many professions and occupations of which the learners and their parents have no idea. In this respect, awareness raising and consulting activities will help the learners make a knowledgeable choice, thus creating solid grounds for career, by contributing to harmony at work and being a competitive, in-demand professional. Educational institutions of general education will co-operate with the higher educational institutions and the private sector.

Textbooks and educational materials will completely be modified and introduced in line with the new standards.

Through the development of digital and media skills, the learners will be provided an opportunity to avoid existing risks by assessing the impact of media, as a result of which abilities to use the media field properly will be developed.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

Main directions recommended under the new standard in the sector of general education are the following:

1. To provide equally accessible high-quality education for all children; make the school an open environment for learners, which is interconnected with the educational and cultural, sports and other institutions of the community;

To Create a system of school based on autonomy and mutual trust; have a school which is creative and initiating, and a creative and initiating citizen;

Professional orientation centres will be established in educational institutions of general education.

All schools of the Republic of Armenia are provided with new textbooks in line with the state standards of general education.

The capacities envisaged by the standard will provide the learners with an opportunity to respond effectively and appropriately as the occasion requires, which is based on the knowledge, values, skills and positions acquired from different subjects.

Through the pervasive, inclusive, innovative and popular development and mastering of knowledge, culture, consciousness and skills we will have educated, creative, initiating, competent and competitive citizen, for whom exercising the rights is as important as the performance of obligations and responsibilities, who finds himself/herself the first person who is responsible for his/her well-being and health. In this context, besides the STEM direction, the new standard in the sector will attach importance to ensuring knowledge of Armenian language and history, Armenian and world (including science fiction) literature, spiritual, ethnic values, healthy lifestyle, as well as sufficient knowledge of at least two foreign languages. It is planned to ensure the outcome of these indicators as a result of organising general education through the development of the improved skills of the teachers having undergone relevant training and new methodology.

The level of media literacy of learners will be improved based on the final outcome of subjects of social sciences defined under the standard.

The learners are knowledgeable of media literacy rules and skills; they imagine the work and role of media in a democratic society, are able to navigate through information flows, find and disseminate information, critically analyse it, assess the impact of media on their own and others' perceptions, positions and actions. Along with the opportunities of using digital media, they also realise the risks related thereto, are able to assess and re-change their behaviour in the digital world from the point of view of safety, responsibility and ethics. They have technical and creative skill of creating media

	<p>product, as well as can effectively apply the media tools for the purpose of realisation of the rights of citizens and participation in the democratic processes.</p>
	<p>6.8. Renovation and furnishing of resource rooms of general educational institutions within the framework of ensuring equally accessible, inclusive and high-quality education for all children, equipping regional pedagogical support centres</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is creating a universally accessible and available learner-oriented general education environment.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 2 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", Articles 4, 5 and 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education".</p> <p>Due to necessity for providing equally accessible, inclusive and high-quality education for all children, the "Action Plan and Schedule for introducing the comprehensively inclusive education system" was approved by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 18 February 2016. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia and the United States Agency for International Development jointly implement the Project "Strengthening Inclusive Education System in Armenia", the objective of which is to ensure physical access for children with special educational needs (SEN) in target schools, and provide high-quality and effective pedagogical and psychological support services at school and regional levels.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the project, it is planned to have renovated resource rooms equipped with the necessary property and didactic materials.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>Renovation and furnishing of resource rooms of general educational institutions, equipping of regional pedagogical support centres.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The resource rooms of 100 general educational institutions are renovated and furnished, 5 regional pedagogical support centres are renovated and provided with appropriate inventory.</p>
7	<p>7.1. Submitting the draft Decision "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1745-N of 10 November 2011" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>Submitting the draft Decision "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1667-N of 27</p>

December 2012” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 24-N of 15 March 2021"

Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 1031-N of 15 August 2013"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:

The main objective of the Action is the differentiated policy for ongoing professional development and promotion of teachers based on the needs of different groups of teachers.

The obligation for the Action stems from the point of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The obligation for the Action also stems from Articles 7 and 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education”, the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.

The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity for fulfilment of pre-election promises given to the citizens by Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, during the visits to communities of the Republic of Armenia and the pre-election campaign (4-17 June 2021).

In parallel with the significant progress in the sector of education in the world, in our country it is implemented with the old methodology, requirements and tool-kit, which has a direct impact on the prospects of sustainable development in the country.

In particular, in our country general education faces great challenges with regard to indicators of the analysis of results registered by the learners during the study and at the end of the study. From the various cause-and-effect links of the issue, it is necessary to single out the current state of professional abilities of teachers as important actors leading the process.

In Armenian schools, the highest educational result was recorded among those learners whose teacher has a professional education, but not a pedagogical qualification. This is true in the case of both mathematics and natural sciences, but it is more obvious in the case of natural sciences; in the case of mathematics the difference in the educational outcome is 6 points, in the case of natural sciences - 15 points. This may indicate that the transfer of professional subject knowledge in local pedagogical educational programmes is not sufficient. This is especially worrying from the point of view of natural science, the improvement of the quality of teaching whereof is a priority.

The next most important factor from the point of view of influencing the educational outcome is the teacher's experience or record of service. Moreover, the trend in the world is that the longer the teacher's experience is, the higher the educational outcome of the learners. The highest educational outcome in Armenia is registered by teachers with 10-20 years of record of service, recording the difference of 30 points. The outcome registered by the learners of this group of teachers is higher than that of teachers with more than twenty years of record of service. The lowest

outcomes are registered by teachers with up to five years of record of service, which indicates that it is necessary to implement consistent work for the professional development of novice teachers.

In fact, the issue is the lack of sufficient environment for pedagogical education and further professional development, including the insufficient tool-kit of pedagogical practice, as a result of which the solution to the issue is the experience gained during the first years of work.

Extensive amendments made in the Law “On general education” as a result of contextual reforms in general education imply amendments in other secondary legislative acts. The objective is the implementation of the differentiated policy for ongoing professional development and promotion of teachers based on the needs of different groups of teachers. The current systems of professional development and encouragement of teachers are not enough to promote creative and innovative teaching activities in the system, to involve young people, to make the sector attractive.

In 2020, the state standards, as well as the subject related standards of general education were completely reviewed, as a result of which contextual amendments were made in the curricula, by emphasising the child's abilities, knowledge, skills, attitude and value component.

For the purpose of developing the professional skills of the teacher who implements all this, the tool-kit for the latter’s continuous development should be completely revised in order to implement the trainings with approaches adequate to the new requirements. Teachers will be provided an opportunity not only to develop their professional abilities, enrich their intellectual arsenal and acquire skills for passing it to the learners, but also to increase their salaries through an interconnected mechanism for remuneration.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues of regulation:

The actions implemented under the existing regulations do not provide sufficient opportunities for the professional development and promotion of a teacher.

In particular, the procedures for testing and granting categories not only do not develop sufficient skills for pedagogical employees, but also the characteristics defined by the latter actually measure those directions of development of a teacher that are not applied in practice and should be directed to state policy. The bonuses paid as a result of the introduced system do not have a significant impact on increasing the attractiveness of the teacher’s profession. At the same time, the teaching activities are not perceptible also from the perspective of potential promotion. In addition, the period of cycle for granting first to fourth categories is nine years, which is unreasonable, depriving the teacher of the opportunity to apply earlier.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

By amending a number of provisions of the Law “On general education”, to enshrine all the regulations that are interrelated with the provisions of the main law on general education.

A differentiated policy on the professional development of teachers will be introduced by the envisaged regulations, by introducing amendments that provide opportunities for an interconnected mechanism for continuous professional development and continuous increase in the remuneration of a teacher.

At the same time, taking into account the fact that even if new teachers are enrolled, the professional abilities of the latter will need to be significantly

	<p>improved to ensure the proper educational outcome of learners, it is necessary to significantly reform the content of pedagogical education in order to change the quality of professional abilities of qualified teachers. It is also necessary to introduce a clear policy for the professional development of novice teachers, with the logic of providing continuous guiding support and not segmental trainings at the beginning of the work.</p> <p>In the context of contextual amendments in general education, it is impossible to imagine the proper implementation of the educational process without providing the necessary tool-kit to the teacher, providing the necessary training adequate to the needs and creating opportunities for increase in the salary corresponding with the progress made.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The amendments providing an opportunity for introducing an interconnected mechanism for promotion, continuous professional development and continuous increase in remuneration of the teacher will be the basis for bringing the remuneration of teachers — meeting up-to-date requirements — closer to the country's average salary, by creating also a more incentive-driven environment.</p> <p>The procedures for attestation, granting of categories and training of a teacher will be reviewed providing the necessary tool-kit to identify and encourage teachers meeting up-to-date requirements, by gradually bringing the remuneration of teachers closer to the country's average salary.</p> <p>The reviewed pedagogical education system will make the profession of a teacher highly sought, respected and progressive among young people.</p> <p>Actions aimed at the professional development of teachers must be continuous, by ensuring professional promotion and, concurrently, financial well-being.</p> <p>7.2. Introducing interrelated mechanisms for professional development and remuneration of teachers</p> <p>Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is the differentiated policy for ongoing professional development and promotion of teachers based on the needs of different groups of teachers.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from point 4 of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from Articles 24 and 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", Articles 7 and 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.</p> <p>The need for defining the professional standards for a teacher stems from the necessity to make the procedures for attestation, incentives and professional development of teachers more effective. The concept of professional standard of a teacher is the description of professional knowledge, professional activity, professional liability and behaviour of a teacher. The objective is to implement education by specialists meeting the modern educational requirements.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:</p>
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The procedure for granting a category through attestation — being one of the main tools for the professional development and promotion of the teachers in the system — does not allow the mechanism for granting categories to play a real encouraging and promoting role. In the mentioned context, an issue under consideration is non-preservation of the category in case of being transferred to another educational institution and having no opportunity to immediately apply for the next stage category.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

Inclusion of professional standards for teachers allows to clarify the prospective for the promotion of a teacher, to make it measurable and visible, as well as to link it to the remuneration system through granting categories. Defining a professional standard will provide an opportunity to also clarify the policies with regard to teachers' development, by refraining from monotonous and one-sided trainings and switching to trainings based on needs and stemming from the professional standard.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

Professional standards outlining the potentials for promotion of teachers will be approved. The professional standards will also clarify the requirements in the process of preparing teachers, contributing modification of professional educational programmes.

7.3. Complete review of pedagogical educational programmes in accordance with new state standards of general education

7.4. Reviewing the requirements for admissions and pedagogical education and further introduction of a mechanism for providing employment to qualified specialists

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:

The main objective of the Action is the differentiated policy for continuous professional development and promotion of teachers based on the needs of different groups of teachers.

The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The obligation for the Action derives from Articles 24 and 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", Articles 7 and 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.

The content of pedagogical education needs to be reviewed, by adjusting it to the new standards of general education and the professional standards for a teacher, new requirements for the education. Reviewing is also necessary from the perspective of modifications in pedagogical education.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:

The influence of a teacher is very important from the point of view of educational outcome. In particular, the educational outcome is affected by the teacher's education, work experience, participation in professional development programmes and satisfaction of teachers with their job.

It should be noted that the results of TIMSS show that in the countries that participated in the follow-up visits, the average higher educational outcome was recorded by those learners, the qualification of whose teachers was in the sector of primary education. It is followed by learners whose teachers are qualified in the given subject area, for example, in the field of mathematics and elementary education. In the third place are the learners whose teachers have professional education in the given subject area, but do not have a pedagogical qualification.

At present, there is no effective, flexible and dynamically functioning system of pedagogical education, which will offer solutions to the issues of the main directions of the development of the sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

Both incumbent and novice teachers need regular trainings and professional development not only because of the need to introduce new standards and to provide education adjusted to the contextual modifications of education, but also to be aware of educational progress that are up-to-date and in lockstep with time.

Taking into account the fact that even if new teachers are enrolled, the professional abilities of the latter will need to be significantly improved to ensure the proper educational outcome of learners; it is necessary to significantly reform the content of pedagogical education in order to qualitatively change the professional abilities of qualified teachers. It is also necessary to introduce a clear policy for the professional development of novice teachers, with the logic of providing continuous guiding support and not through segmental trainings at the beginning of the work.

It is recommended to ensure resolution of issues conditioned by the main directions of the national education system development, by adjusting the content and quality of preparation of specialists in pedagogy with the requirements of general education reforms.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

As a result of reviewing the pedagogical educational programmes, there will be compliance between the new standards of general education and the professional standards for a teacher.

The mechanisms for receiving pedagogical education and providing employment to qualified specialists will be elaborated, creating favourable conditions for making the profession of a teacher popular, prestigious and up-to-date among young people.

Teachers will have an opportunity for an increase in the remuneration. Teacher's remuneration will become adequate and in some cases, in excess of the average living standard in the country.

The attractiveness of teacher's profession will increase, men will be included in the system, the role whereof will make the process of organising education more effective in terms of educational and upbringing activities.

8	8.1. Drawing up criteria and methodology for inclusion of schools in the list for building, capital renovation and renovation works, in accordance with the principles of providing with necessary property and equipment in parallel with activities related to seismic stability, capacity of buildings, effective organisation of educational process in rural communities, construction works
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	<p>8.2. Selecting at least 300 schools according to the elaborated methodology and principles and submitting the final list to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>8.3. Submitting the list of necessary property and equipment in accordance with the new standard and subject related programmes to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>8.4. Carrying out construction works in the institutions included in the list and ensuring their replenishment with the necessary property and equipment</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to build, capitally renovate and renovate at least 300 general educational institutions, ensuring their complete replenishment with the necessary property and equipment.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 2, point 1 of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems also from Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 4, 5, 9 and 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education”, Articles 4, 5, 20 and 22 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education”, the requirement for ensuring the indicator of the target result 5.4.1 of ACTION 5 “CORE OBJECTIVES BY 2030” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY BY 2050”./page 44/</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity for fulfilment of pre-election promises given to the citizens by Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, during the visits to communities of the Republic of Armenia and the pre-election campaign (4-17 June 2021).</p> <p>The results of the TIMSS study demonstrate the important impact of the factor of availability and accessibility of school infrastructures and resources on the quality of education. It is both about the infrastructures existing at school, starting from public utilities, the availability of communications, and the inventory replenishment, availability of necessary supplies and means. This impact is particularly obvious in the case of natural science subjects, where in the case of schools for which learners have reported infrastructure problems, there is at least a ten-point difference in educational outcomes as compared to schools that do not report such problems. 455 schools or 31.7% of schools need capital renovation, and additionally 383 schools or 26.7% of schools need ongoing renovation activities.</p> <p>A prerequisite for promoting a healthy lifestyle of learners is the availability of gyms and playgrounds at schools, their satisfactory condition and replenishment with necessary property.</p> <p>For such purposes building, capital renovation and renovation of at least 300 general educational institutions is planned, ensuring their complete replenishment with necessary property and equipment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:</p>
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Although 80.8% of school buildings are standard buildings, however, taking into account the fact that the capacity of school buildings is designed for about 650 thousand pupils in total, while the number of pupils is about 380 thousand, the overcrowding of these buildings in some cases makes the existing costs inefficient in terms of preservation, urging to find more targeted solutions. In particular, the workload of schools shows that 378 or 26.3% of schools have up to 25% workload, 19.9% of schools have 25-50% workload.

Another issue is the fact that there are a large number of rural schools in Armenia with a small number of pupils; schools with up to 100 pupils make up about 31.5% of the total number of schools, about another 35% of schools have 101-300 learners. In such cases, the institution should expand its significance by acting as a community centre, providing the cultural, sports, entertainment environment and infrastructures of the residential areas. By this logic, the construction of 20 modular schools started in 2020.

The main objective of the Activity is to improve the building conditions of educational institutions and to strengthen the capacity of potential disaster risk management. The largest-scale study of the vulnerability of school buildings was conducted within the framework of the School Seismic Safety Improvement Programme.

For the purpose of properly ensuring school buildings and communal infrastructures, it is planned to carry out reconstruction, capital renovation and renovation activities and replenish 300 schools with the necessary property in the coming years.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

The standards and methodology for enrolment in the list of building, capital renovating and renovating of schools will be drawn up.

Selecting and drawing up the final list of the institutions subject to renovation, capital renovation and building according to the standards.

The list of necessary property and equipment will be reviewed in compliance with the new standard and subject related programmes.

The construction works will be carried out in the institutions included in the list and these institutions will be replenished with necessary property and equipment.

It is proposed by the envisaged Action to promote the healthy lifestyle of learners at schools by the availability of gyms and playgrounds, their satisfactory condition and the replenishment with necessary inventory. Part of the aforementioned will be implemented by the programme for construction, renovation and capital renovation of 300 schools.

At the same time, it is recommended to consider a combined criterion for the selection of schools, by comparing the degree of breakdown susceptibility with the school load level, considering the possibility of launching network schools in rural areas, and to define a list of 300 schools primarily in need of construction, renovation and capital renovation.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

Construction works will be carried out in the institutions included in the list, and these institutions will be replenished with necessary property and

	<p>equipment.</p> <p>Building, capital renovation and renovation of at least 300 schools by 2026 are planned, ensuring their complete replenishment with necessary property and equipment.</p> <p>Institutions of rural settlements may expand their significance by acting as a community centre, providing the cultural, sports, entertainment environment and infrastructures of the settlement. From the point of view of effectiveness of organising the educational process, there may be educational complexes, where, in addition to general education programmes, pre-schools, and where necessary, vocational and additional educational programmes can be implemented.</p> <p>Availability of gyms and playgrounds will be ensured; they will be in good condition, replenished with the necessary property.</p> <p>The physical condition of school buildings and communal infrastructures will be improved.</p> <p>Improving the educational environment will have a positive impact on the learners' progress; in particular, a positive learning environment will be formed, including the opportunity to receive education in classrooms replenished with modern inventory and equipment, which will make the child feel more valued and secure, obtaining improved educational outcomes as a result.</p>
9	<p>9.1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>9.3. Submitting the draft Decision “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1392-N of 25 July 2002” to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>Submitting the draft Decision "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1391-N of 14 October 2010" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>Submitting the draft Decision "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 319-N of 4 March 2010" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Main objective of the Action is enhancing the efficiency of the management and financing system of general educational institutions.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 2, 3, point 5 of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems also from Articles 7, 10, 11, 12 and 26 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education”, requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.</p> <p>Making amendments in the Law "On general education" is conditioned by the necessity for introducing an improved system for the management and</p>

financing of general educational institutions, increasing the effectiveness of the implementation of functions; the secondary legislative acts stemming from the Law will also need to be amended.

In the context of activities aimed at improving the quality of general education, importance is attached to the review of the mechanisms for managing the institutions, with new mechanisms for certification and attestation of the leaders and clear distribution of official functions. Importance is attached to making amendments increasing the effectiveness of the management of general educational institutions, which imply ensuring continuity of governance based on the role of the development programme and the outcome of performance of actions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:

At present, there are a number of key issues in the sector of general education, which are a serious obstacle to the smooth process of systemic changes. In particular, there are no systems for developing the managerial skills of the principals and encouraging effective management. The current formula for funding according to the number of pupils of educational institutions is not effective, which does not provide similar result for all institutions.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

Regulations subject to amendment will provide an opportunity to define the supplements and amendments recommended to make to the Law "On general education", which are aimed at introducing new mechanisms for the management of general education aiming to apply more flexible and modern approaches in a number of processes of the system, including in the management system, as well as to apply new tool-kits.

In particular, a new approach is recommended for filling the vacant position of a school principal — assignment of the latter by the authorised state administration body for education from among the candidate(s) having passed the procedural stages of the announced competition. The regulation will allow shifting the power to choose a candidate claiming for this important position from non-professional members of the school board to the process of assignment of the candidate by the head of the authorised body based on the requirements under clearly defined terms. However, the pupil-, teacher- and parent boards of the school will continue to have an active participation in selecting candidates, one of which will be appointed by the state as a principal of the educational institution. Then the outcome of the performance of the development programme will play a decisive role in ensuring the continuity of holding the office. The procedure for appointing principals of general educational institutions, the job descriptions of pedagogical staff and the relevant provisions of the model charter must be elaborated or amended and reviewed as interconnected regulations.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

A new model of management of general educational institutions will be introduced, with new mechanisms for certification and attestation and distribution of functions. A unified mechanism for financing the schools will operate for all types of schools, involving a tool-kit for additionally financing the educational institutions, by which the effective management of the educational institution will also lead to financial improvement.

As a result of appointment of principals of general educational institutions, the review of the job descriptions and the model charter, the tool-kit of effectiveness of management of the institutions will be ensured, emphasising the outcome of the performance of the development programme.

Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on making amendments to the process of appointment of principals of educational institutions, job descriptions and model charters will be adopted, ensuring the tool-kit for ensuring the effectiveness of the management of general education.

The procedure for certification of principals of the general educational institutions will be reviewed, a new system of attestation of the principals will be introduced.

A mechanism for continuous professional development will operate for the principals and deputy principals of general educational institutions.

A mechanism for additional financing of general educational institutions will operate on a competitive basis and based on the performance, contributing to effective and high-quality general education.

9.2. Elaborating the draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1262-N of 24 August 2006” and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:

Main objective of the Action is enhancing the efficiency of the management and financing system of general educational institutions.

The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 3, point 5 of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The obligation for the Action also stems from Article 26 and point 26 of Article 30 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On general education”, the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021. The current funding formula approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1262-N of 24 August 2006 does not address issues such as universal inclusion, having a unified approach to the payroll and salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as regulation of certain types of expenditures. The effectively managed schools are provided with no opportunity to acquire additional means. The mechanism for financing schools having multi-disciplinary classes is also problematic.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:

The existing regulation does not ensure a unified approach for all institutions, irrespective of the subordination of the latter, as well as it does not ensure creation of adequate conditions for normal functioning of the institutions.

The most important tool is the change of the procedure for funding of general education, switching from the principle of funding by number of learners to the procedure for funding by classes, which will allow to avoid the practice that has a negative impact on the quality of education, which encourages schools to have classes with as many learners as possible to reduce costs. As a result, 35-person classes are formed in the elementary and middle schools, and 30-person classes are formed in the high school. In the case of funding by classes, the school will tend to have as many classes as

possible, switching to a minimum number instead of maximum. Classes composed of 20-25 people can create qualitatively different conditions for the learning process, producing a qualitatively different educational outcome. Particularly, this will impact the learners with poor academic performance, who are often left out of the teacher's sight for objective reasons in higher classes, deepening their fallback from the general subject course.

It does not provide opportunities for applying encouraging means for the effectively managed educational institutions.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

By the recommended formula the calculation of funding is based on a number of initial data, including the average annual number of classes, the average number of full-time teachers per class, the minimum salary, various types of bonuses, as well as the cost of maintaining institutions and the number of positions prescribed for the latter.

All this provides an opportunity to calculate the funding for each individual case as accurately as possible by a unified approach. Based on the performance of the schools, an additional funding system will operate in a competitive basis, which will create a competitive basis for good administration of schools and will be an incentive for organising the educational process more effectively.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

A new funding system will operate based on the number of classes. There will also be an additional funding mechanism in place based on effective management with new competitive funding criteria based on performance, contributing to the implementation of effective and high-quality general education.

A flexible mechanism for funding of multi-disciplinary classes will be introduced. Based on the performance of the activities at schools, a competition fund will be launched, which will be available to schools having good outcomes. The new funding procedure will operate as a normative act for all schools, ensuring opportunities and conditions for activities, whereas the additional procedure will operate to encourage good performance and outcomes.

9.4. Elaborating a draft Decision on establishing the procedure for attestation of principals of state general educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 395-N of 18 May 2010"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:

Main objective of the Action is enhancing the efficiency of the management and financing system of general educational institutions.

The obligation for the Action stems from paragraphs 1, 2, 3, point 5 of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The obligation for the Action also stems from Articles 10 and 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", the requirements of

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.

By the current regulation, the acting principal of a general educational institution and whoever wants to become a principal, is trained under the same initial conditions to receive a certificate of the right to manage a general educational institution.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:

The process of certification of principals was introduced in 2010 as a tool for setting certain minimum quality requirements for those who want to become a principal and as a tool for preliminary selection of the latter. However, in the course of ten years after its introduction the current procedure for certification has divulged a number of issues. In particular, one of the identified issues is that the certification process provides a similar approach for everyone, regardless of work experience. This gap can be filled by the mandatory attestation, showing a differentiated approach towards the participants.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:

The attestation and trainings will fill the gap in the professional skills of principals and in receiving methodological support according to functions. They will also allow applying differentiated approach according to need, available experience, by providing an opportunity for promotion.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The tool-kit for evaluating the work efficiency of principals is provided through the review of the procedure for certification of principals of general educational institutions, through the introduction of an attestation system.

9.5. Trainings for the members of collegial management bodies of general educational institutions

9.6. Trainings for principals and deputy principals of general educational institutions

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:

Main objective of the Action is enhancing the efficiency of the management and financing system of general educational institutions.

The obligation for the Action derives from paragraph 3, point 5 of paragraph 3 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

The obligation for the Action also derives from Articles 10 and 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.

Administrative workers of general educational institutions, as well as members included in the composition of the collegial management body have no sufficient abilities to implement functions, have no awareness and management skills. The envisaged trainings aim to fill the mentioned gap, develop the mentioned skills, which will create grounds for improving the increase of effectiveness of school management.

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:</p> <p>At present, while organising the processes regulated by Orders of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia No 395-N of 18 May and No 113-N of 18 March 2010, a key issue remains open — no requirement for continuous development of management skills and abilities is presented to those who are responsible. There is a level of incomplete awareness of the rights and responsibilities of the members of collegial management bodies and the deputy principals of the general educational institutions, assigned thereto in the manner prescribed by law. A problem has emerged with regard to the introduction of a mechanism for continuous development of an operational nature, with the justification of creating a professional body.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>It is recommended to increase the awareness of the members of the collegial management bodies, the principals and deputy principals of the general educational institutions about the authorities assigned thereto through trainings.</p> <p>The attestation and trainings will fill the necessary gap of professional skills of principals and of receiving methodological support according to functions. They will also allow to apply differentiated approach according to need, available experience, by providing an opportunity for promotion.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Members of the collegial management body of all general educational institutions possess the necessary skills and abilities to solve the tasks set before them (about 9000 members).</p> <p>A mechanism for continuous professional development is operating for principals and deputy principals of general educational institutions (1400 principals, 2200 deputy principals).</p> <p>Grounds for effective management of schools will be created due to skill acquired by people in charge of the management function, and, in case they are applied in the educational institutions and demonstrate good outcomes, they will have the opportunity not only to improve the quality of education, but also to receive additional funding.</p>
10	<p>10.1. Including general education schools of Lori marz of the Republic of Armenia in the programme "Sustainable school food"</p> <p>10.2. Including general education schools of Armavir marz of the Republic of Armenia in the programme "Sustainable school food"</p> <p>10.3. Including general education schools of Kotayk marz of the Republic of Armenia in the programme "Sustainable school food"</p> <p>10.4. Implementing trainings for proper implementation of the programme of food provision</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is providing pupils of elementary classes of general education schools of all marzes of the Republic of Armenia with</p>

	<p>school meals.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action derives from paragraphs 1, 2 of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action also derives from Article 22 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On general education", the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 136-N of 4 February 2021.</p> <p>Providing healthy food to elementary school pupils in all marzes of the Republic of Armenia aims to improve their health and overcome poverty by contributing to the increase in school attendance and achievement of global elementary education among the school-aged children.</p> <p>For the purpose of implementing the process properly, it is planned to implement trainings of school staff for implementing the project of food provision properly.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues of regulation:</p> <p>At present, the programme "Sustainable school food" is implemented in 8 marzes (Ararat, Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Tavush, Shirak, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik, Lori) of the Republic of Armenia. In 2021-2023, the programme will be introduced in Armavir and Kotayk Marzes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>The programme of providing school food to the learners of pre-school educational centres and elementary classes of general educational schools from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia will be expanded year by year, a system for providing stable school food to the learners of elementary classes will be created. Pupils of elementary classes of general educational schools of all the marzes of the Republic of Armenia will receive healthy food, which will have a direct impact on improving the attendance of the learners and the quality of education.</p> <p>The UN World Food Programme will continue to support the programme, including the renovation and furnishing of canteens and kitchens in schools in transitional marzes. In 2023, the number of beneficiaries of the programme will be more than 110000.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>In Lori marz of the Republic of Armenia, the number of beneficiaries receiving food while studying will be about 12600 children, for the whole programme - about 78500 children studying in elementary classes.</p> <p>In Armavir marz of the Republic of Armenia, the number of beneficiaries receiving food while studying will be about 14000 children, for the whole programme - about 92500 children studying in elementary classes.</p> <p>In Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia, the number of beneficiaries receiving food while studying will be about 15600 children, for the whole programme - about 108100 children studying in elementary classes.</p> <p>School staffs have the necessary skills and abilities to implement the programme.</p>
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11	<p>11.1. “Reorganising the educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education (PSVE)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is rationalising the distribution of state education institutions and the programmes being implemented within those institutions.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action derives from point 1 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of managements of education system.</p> <p>The challenges of the time require optimisation of educational procedures and the organisation of the process using less means and resources, but the opportunity to achieve the same objectives more effectively. The obligation for the Action is conditioned by the increase of management and cost-effectiveness and resource concentration of Vocational Education and Training (hereinafter referred to as "VET") institutions. The Action envisages, first of all, the re-change of the network of educational institutions. The creation of the network envisages horizontal enlargement — reorganisation of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education (hereinafter: PSVE) institutions, which allows optimising the used areas and the educational material base. The educational institutions of the PSVE system will be reorganised and multifunctional educational institutions will be established on the basis thereof. The most optimal use of the resources of the PSVE system will contribute to the further development of professional education and the preparation of qualified specialists.</p> <p>The organisation of education in educational institutions providing PSVE, which is a priority and important for the development of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, as well as organisation of education in the most demanded sectors in the labour market — taking into account the existing network of primary vocational and secondary vocational educational institutions — will contribute to the introduction of new specialities in educational institutions, which are priority and important for the development of the state and the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, as well as in the most demanded sectors in the labour market, modernisation of the specialities taught.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action will provide an opportunity to address issues such as increasing attractiveness, responding quickly to labour market demands, improving labour market compatibility index and promoting the employment of graduates.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>As of 1 January 2021, the primary vocational (handicraft) education programmes are implemented in 54 state educational institutions, 21 of which — in the primary vocational educational institution. Secondary vocational education programmes are implemented in 77 state educational institutions, 67 of which — in secondary vocational state educational institutions.</p> <p>The relevant specialists of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia have conducted mapping of the PSVE state educational institutions existing in the Republic of Armenia according to marzes, educational institutions and building-structures, specialities taught,</p>
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number of students and employees. Based on the results of the study and analysis conducted during the mapping, as well as taking into account the repetition of some specialties taught in educational institutions, building conditions, number of students, distance from each other, replenishment with logistics base, economic directions of economic development of marzes, strengthening of regional state colleges, which are considered to be leading in the given marz, as centres of excellence and leadership, a need has arisen to optimise (enlarge, reorganise) some educational institutions.

As a result of optimisation (enlargement, reorganisation), the effectiveness of the management of educational institution will increase, the building conditions will be improved, the implemented specialties and prepared specialists will be reviewed, as well as it will be possible to carry out both primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational educational programmes within one institution.

Having in mind the main objective of preparing specialists meeting the requirements and standards of the time, the increase in the demand for a number of new specialties due to the socio-economic development of the Republic in recent years and the factor of adjusting the specialties taught in the PSVE institutions with the peculiarities of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia make the organisation of education in specialties in-demand in the labour market in institutions fundamental, which provides an opportunity to make primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education more attractive and in line with the socio-economic development trends and modern developments of the country, sectors of priority for the development of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and the most in-demand in the labour market, contributing to the employment of graduates.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Regular monitoring of PSVE institutions in accordance with marzes, number of students, specialties, effective management of VET educational institutions, concentration of resources, elaboration of draft decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On reorganisation of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational educational institutions" and their submission to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

Having in mind the main objective of preparing specialists meeting the requirements and standards of the time, the increase in the demand for a number of new specialties due to the socio-economic development of the Republic in recent years and the factor of adjusting the specialties taught in the PSVE institutions with the peculiarities of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia make the organisation of education in specialties in-demand in the labour market in institutions fundamental, which provides an opportunity to make primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education more attractive and in line with the socio-economic development trends and modern developments of the country, contributing to the employment of graduates.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

As a result of the implementation of the Action, 10 primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational educational institutions will be reorganised, the areas used and the educational material base will be optimised, the building conditions will be improved, the effectiveness of the management of educational institution will be increased, as well as it will be possible to carry out primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational educational programmes within one institution.

11.2. Development of methodology for distribution of places for admission at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is rationalising the distribution of state education institutions and the programmes being implemented within those institutions.

The obligation for the Action derives from point 1 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the implementation of the Action is to implement the distribution of places for admission at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, taking into account the directions of development of the economy of the Republic of Armenia, marzes of the Republic of Armenia, peculiarities, proportion of the number of students, analysis of places allocated in previous years and the actual admission results, the number of the relevant specialists required, the variety of educational programmes provided.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, no clear methodology for distribution of places for admission at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education is available. While implementing distribution of places for admission at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institution in the Republic of Armenia, they are mainly guided by the direction of the PSVE educational institutions, the limits of the licensed places, the specialities presented by the educational institutions, which often do not correspond to the development directions of the marz, economy. As a result, the educational programmes provided in educational institutions are repeated, the allocated places remain vacant, and very often there is a need for redistribution of places.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The elaboration of a new methodology will contribute to preparing specialists deriving from the needs of economy of the Republic of Armenia, the variety of educational programmes provided in marzes, the targeted distribution of places for admission in educational institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

There is a methodology for distribution of places for admission at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, based on the priorities of territorial and sectoral development and the labour market requirements.

11.3. Redistributing the programmes being implemented at primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institutions according to territorial and sectoral development priorities, number of students

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

	<p>Main objective of the Action is modification of the distribution of state education institutions and the programmes being implemented within those institutions.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from point 1 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the Action is to implement the distribution of places for admission at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, taking into account the directions of development of the economy of the Republic of Armenia, marzes of the Republic of Armenia, peculiarities, proportion of students, analysis of places allocated in previous years and the actual admission results, the number of the relevant specialists required, the variety of educational programmes provided.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to implement the distribution of admission places at educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, taking into account the development trends of the economy of the Republic of Armenia and that of marzes of the Republic of Armenia, its peculiarities, proportion of the number of students, analysis of places allocated in previous years and the actual admission results, the number of the relevant specialists required, the variety of educational programmes provided.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Redistribution of admission places based on the new methodology will contribute to preparing specialists based on the needs of economy of the Republic of Armenia, the variety of educational programmes provided in marzes, the targeted distribution of admission places in educational institutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Educational programmes implemented in the educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education comply with the priorities of territorial and sectoral development, labour market requirements.</p>
12	<p>12.1. "Testing and introducing "public-private partnership" models of management at primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institutions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Main objective of the Action is enhancing the efficiency of the management of educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational system and expanding the opportunities and forms of entrepreneurial activity thereof. The obligation for the Action derives from point 3 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The modern</p>

	<p>developments and opportunities for global business imply need for new methods of management and new legal-organisational forms. The objective of the Action is to identify the relationship between the employers having different legal and organisational forms of activities of educational institutions, the impact of PSVE institutions on the activities of almost all key sectors to enlarge processes and policies, such as financial, management bodies, strategic planning, human resource management, admission, evaluation of students, etc. The promotion of the new management models will contribute to the increase of transparency and accountability among educational institutions of Armenia carrying out preliminary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The founder of the PSVE educational institutions in Armenia is the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the management of which is carried out in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, and the management body is the collegial management board.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action will ensure the pooling of resources of the private sector, the state and educational institutions for the development of the PSVE system, will contribute to the increase of the effectiveness of the use of available resources for preparing qualified specialists.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Recommendations have been elaborated with regard to alternative models of management of educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.</p> <p>Legal and institutional grounds have been established/elaborated based on the public-private partnership management model .</p> <p>The new management model has been piloted in at least 1 institution. For the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of management, models for funding the educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education have been elaborated.</p> <hr/> <p>12.2. Making relevant amendments and supplements to the charters of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institutions for the purpose of expanding the opportunities and forms of entrepreneurial activity for educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education</p> <p>1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is enhancing the efficiency of the management of educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational system and expanding the opportunities and forms of entrepreneurial activity thereof. The obligation for the Action stems from point 1 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, sub-point 1 of point 3 of Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education", sub-point "k" of point 4 of part 82 of the Law "On approving the state programme for development of education of the Republic of Armenia until 2030".</p>
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The current business environment, within the framework whereof the organisations function, requires urgent changes and continuous development. In this dynamic and unpredictable environment, entrepreneurship and innovation are the basis of competitiveness, which can expand the application of new solutions and meet the needs of organisations. The implementation of entrepreneurial activities by the PSVE institutions, creation of economic companies will contribute to creation of extra budgets, organisation of practical training for students in the enterprise of the institution.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, the budgets of PSVE institutions are formed from the State Budget funds allocated for educational activities, funds generated from tuition fees, and from means generated from other forms of activities not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Taking into account the scarcity of state funds of the Republic of Armenia, creation of opportunities for entrepreneurial activities for PSVE institutions is of strategic importance for the development of vocational education and training (VET) institutions, which will provide colleges and handicraft schools with the opportunity to have an extra budget, by promoting self-financing, equipping and replenishing the educational institution with appropriate property and equipment, organising on-the-job training for students in parallel with the theoretical knowledge and developing relevant abilities and skills among students.

VET institutions have the necessary infrastructures and it is necessary to create relevant environment and legal framework for their targeted use. Establishing economic companies at educational institutions will contribute both to formation of extra budgets in institutions, and to the organisation of practical education for students in the enterprise of the institution. At present, there are such enterprises in 5 VET institutions, which can be a good precondition for the dissemination of the above-mentioned experience. VET institutions may have opportunities to provide services in their specialties, to expand the production and sale of products, to create multi-stakeholder work programmes for various purposes. The promotion of entrepreneurial activity is the most important guarantee for the material provision of VETs, the organisation of work-based training and the effective operation.

Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of expanding the activities of PSVE institutions, to establish economic companies in PSVE institutions, to create an opportunity for organising practical education for the students in the enterprise of the institution, to create a legal ground based on the 'study of the mechanisms for implementing entrepreneurial activities by the educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, creating economic companies or participating therein, elaborating recommendations thereon, by making relevant amendments in the charters of PSVE institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:

The opportunities and forms of entrepreneurial activity of educational institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education are expanded.

13	13.1. Reviewing the lists of specialties of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the lists of specialties of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational
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education and making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 73-N of 12 January 2006”

1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action:

Main objective of the Action is improving the employment of the sector of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

The obligation for the Action stems from point 1 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, points 1 and 3 of Article 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education".

Reviewing the list of specialities — in accordance with the regional and sectoral development — will contribute to the closure of departments of specialities not in-demand in the labour market, inclusion into the lists the specialities which are priority and important for the development of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, as well as new specialities in the most demanded sectors in the labour market, modernisation of specialities of VET sector.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The lists of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education specialities and qualifications were reviewed in 2018. However, the reforms introduced in recent two years and those to be carried out in the VET system, the studies carried out, as well as the process of bringing the specialities taught at the VET institutions into compliance with the peculiarities of marzes of the Republic of Armenia have made it necessary to review the list of specialities.

Review of the lists of specialities of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education and, respectively, "Approving the lists of specialities of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education and making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 73-N of 12 January 2006" create an opportunity to make the primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education in Armenia more attractive and in line with the socio-economic development trends and modern developments of the country, by regulating the provision of educational services provided at institutions carrying out primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, according to the sectors which are a priority for the development of the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and are in-demand in the labour market.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Study of priority sectors of the economy, further development trends, programmes for development of marzes, recommendations received from interested bodies, review of lists of specialities taught in primary and secondary vocational educational institutions, removal from the list of specialities not in demand in the labour market, inclusion of new specialities, elaboration of draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 73-N of 12 January 2006 "On approving the lists of specialities of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 242 of 18 May 2000 and repealing a number of decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" and submission

	<p>thereof to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, lists of specialities of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education will regularly be reviewed, specialities not in demand will be removed and new specialities in demand in the labour market will be included, which will contribute to the modernisation of specialities of the sector of vocational education and teaching (VET), increase of attractiveness, rapid response to the requirements of the labour market, improvement of the labour market compatibility index, encouraging the employment of the graduates.</p>
	<p>13.2. Experimentally introducing a system of on-the-job training and dual training at primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education institutions</p> <p>1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Main objective of the Action is improving the employment of the sector of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from point 2 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The obligation for the Action is conditioned by the lack of competitive specialists of the VET sector in labour market, lack of modern professional knowledge and practical skills, Articles 4 and 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia", concept paper on the "Social partnership", as well as the current social and economic conditions of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Taking into account the above-mentioned, a necessity has emerged to elaborate a model for the organisation of the educational process and to experimentally introduce and expand a system for dual training for at least 1 specialty in 2 selected VET educational institutions annually, which will provide an opportunity to implement practice-based training in parallel with the education process. Organising on-the-job training with the employer will contribute to the professional development of specialists in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, the development of relevant abilities and skills among the learners, the involvement of employers and the expansion of social partnership, the employment of the graduates by their specialisation, the increase in the attractiveness of the VET sector, the integration into the European education area and the mutual recognition of qualifications.</p> <p>Such a process guarantees the preparation of in-demand specialists in the labour market, exclusively in accordance with the requirements of the labour market to the specialists, which is necessary for their professional activity, promotion, as well as socio-economic development of the country.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of solving a number of issues existing in the sector of education having their direct impact on the socio-economic development of the Republic of Armenia, contributing to the professional development of the specialists meeting the requirements of the labour market, inclusion of the employers and expansion of social partnership, integration to the European education area and the mutual recognition of qualifications, the expansion</p>

	<p>opportunities to introduce and apply on-the-job training elements of educational sector in the vocational education system has a predominant trend in the development of the PSVE system, which will allow the employers to be involved in the educational processes, to participate in the innovative projects jointly with the educational institutions, to improve their own technologies and products on the one hand and will contribute to the formation of relevant economical and practical abilities and skills among the learners, the promotion of employment on the other hand.</p> <p>In 2017-2018, a system for dual training was introduced for 11 specialities in 15 PSVE institutions.</p> <p>The expansion of the system for dual training — as an important precondition for the development of the system, employment of graduates and involvement of employers — is one of the predominant directions of the sector, the key factors in the phase of development of which are the involvement of the representatives of the organisations in the education process and the development of the apprenticeship. The Action will ensure the pooling of resources of the entrepreneurship, the state and educational institutions for the development of the PSVE system and will contribute to the increase of the effectiveness of the use of available resources for preparing qualified specialists.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Selection of specialities which are priority and important for the development of the State, the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and selection of PSVE institutions providing education on those specialities, formation of working groups elaborating a package of educational and methodological documents of the experimental system for dual training therein, establishment of educational institution-private sector bases in the given sector, submission of recommendations on the educational programmes, curricula elaborated by the working-groups, the new mechanisms for organising internships to the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport for approval, experimental introduction of a dual training system for selected specialities in selected PSVE institutions, preparation of highly demanded specialists in the labour market, exclusively in accordance with the requirements set by the labour market for specialists.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action:</p> <p>Annually 1 new system for employment-based training and dual training is experimentally introduced at 2 institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.</p>
	<p>13.3. Elaborating a draft law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to the Laws “On education”, “On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia”” and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Main objective of the Action is improving the employment of the sector of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from point 2 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The obligation for the Action is conditioned by the lack of competitive specialists of the VET sector in labour market, lack of modern professional knowledge and practical skills, Articles 4 and 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and</p>

secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia", concept paper on the "Social partnership", as well as the current social and economic conditions of the Republic of Armenia.

Taking into account the above-mentioned, there is need to elaborate a model for the organisation of the educational process and to experimentally introduce and expand a system for dual training at selected VET educational institutions, which will provide an opportunity to implement practice-based training in parallel with the education process. The organisation of on-the-job training by the employer will contribute to the professional development of specialists in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, the development of relevant abilities and skills among the learners, the involvement of employers and the expansion of social partnership, the employment of the graduates by their specialisation, the increase in the attractiveness of the VET sector, the integration into the European education area and the mutual recognition of qualifications.

Such a process guarantees preparation of highly demanded specialists for the labour market, exclusively in conditioned by the requirements of the labour market to the specialists, which is necessary for their professional activity, promotion, as well as socio-economic development of the country.

At the same time, the complete implementation of the above-mentioned is conditioned by the availability of relevant legislative and legal framework, but the existing legislation does not contain the necessary regulations, which, in its turn, gave rise to the necessity to implement the given Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

For the purpose of solving a number of issues existing in the sector of education having their direct impact on the socio-economic development of the Republic of Armenia, contributing to the professional development of the specialists meeting the requirements of the labour market, inclusion of the employers and expansion of social partnership, integration to the European education area and the mutual recognition of qualifications, the expansion opportunities to introduce and apply on-the-job training elements of educational sector in the vocational education system has a predominant trend in the development of the PSVE system, which will allow the employers to be involved in the educational processes, to participate in the innovative projects jointly with the educational institutions, to improve their own technologies and products on the one hand and will contribute to the formation of relevant economical and practical abilities and skills among the learners, the promotion of employment on the other hand. In 2017-2018, a system for dual training was introduced for 11 specialities in 15 PSVE institutions.

The expansion of the system for dual training — as an important precondition for the development of the system, employment of graduates and involvement of employers — is one of the predominant directions of the sector, the key factors in the phase of development of which are the involvement of the representatives of the organisations in the education process and the development of the apprenticeship. The Action will ensure the pooling of resources of the entrepreneurship, the state and educational institutions for the development of the PSVE system and will contribute to the increase of the effectiveness of the use of available resources for preparing qualified specialists.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of introducing an on-the-job training and dual training system, disseminating it throughout the PSVE system, elaboration of a draft law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to the Laws "On education", "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational

	<p>education of the Republic of Armenia", by submitting recommendations on making necessary amendments and supplements to other related laws and legal acts.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, a number of issues existing in the sector of education of the Republic of Armenia will be solved, which have their direct impact on the socio-economic development of the Republic of Armenia, which will contribute to the professional development of the specialists in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, formation of relevant abilities and skill among the learners, involvement of the employers and the expansion of social partnership, integration to the European education area and the mutual recognition of qualifications.</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring legislative and legal grounds for on-the-job training and dual training, a draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendment to the Law "On education" and the Law "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education" has been elaborated and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Necessary legislative grounds have been created for the purpose of introducing the on-the-job training and dual training in the system for primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education completely and for the purpose of its further dissemination.</p>
14	<p>14.1. Training of members of the administrative, management boards, representatives of branch and sectoral associations involved in different working groups, pedagogical staff of institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education</p> <p>1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Main objective of the Action is strengthening the human resources of institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.</p> <p>The obligation for the Action stems from point 4 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, point 2 of Article 18 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education". In conditions of modern economy, the development of human resources is a permanent process conditioned by the business environment and various changes. The requirements for the teachers and trainers of the PSVE sector gradually increase and there is yet a lot to do for the development of the professional abilities. The requirements of the newly elaborated state educational standards, the emergence of rapid response to the requirements of the changing labour market, the new approaches as a result of the development of new technologies, science and economy emphasise the need for trainings. In addition, the need for teaching or training arises not only in the case of improvement and application of current processes, but also in the case of introduction of new systems. Therefore, training remains a key priority.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>One of the priorities of the reforms conducted in the PSVE sector is the strengthening of human resources through trainings. In this regard, trainings for the PSVE administrative, pedagogical staff and members of the management board of VET institutions have been carried out every year; during the last three years, trainings have been provided for the employees of the PSVE system and persons of other staff involved in the work of that system,</p>

during which about 3000 people have undergone training. But there is still a lot to be done to develop the professional abilities.

The requirements of the newly elaborated state educational standards, the rapid response to the requirements of the changing labour market, the introduction of new systems make the conduct of trainings a priority. Communication with qualified and leading specialists, providing current materials and getting acquainted with the developments of the sector during the trainings help the teaching staff to master modern information technologies, get acquainted with the innovations of the sector, and the feedback after the trainings, conduct of lessons, observations, instilling a collaborative work style among the pedagogical staff contribute to the improvement and modernisation of the educational process.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Preliminary identification of professional needs of members of the administrative, management boards, representatives of branch and sectoral associations involved in different working groups, pedagogical staff, elaboration of professional and pedagogical training programmes for teachers of PSVE institutions in cooperation with employers, leading universities and other interested parties of the sector, organisation of trainings for the purpose of strengthening the professional abilities of teachers and instructors of educational institutions based on those programmes, which will ensure the continuous professional development of teachers and will be a precondition for their encouragement and the establishment of an exploitation system. The process is ongoing and is planned to be implemented within the framework of the Action "Reforms in primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education and training (VET)" of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

During 2021-2022, around 800 administrative workers, members of management boards, representatives of branch and sectoral associations involved in different working groups, pedagogical staff of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education system are trained and have acquired the necessary skills to solve the tasks set before them.

Around 60 administrative workers, members of management boards, representatives of branch and sectoral associations involved in different working groups of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education system are trained and have acquired the necessary skills to solve the tasks set before them.

14.2. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedures for attestation and training of the pedagogical staff of institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education"

1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action

Main objective of the Action is strengthening the human resources at institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

The obligation for the Action stems from point 4 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The implementation of the Action is conditioned by part 3 of Article 22 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On

primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia".

In the modern world, teaching is a developing skill, so a pedagogue must continue to study in the ever-changing science, economy and society, which requires the state to attach importance to the professional development of the pedagogical staff and to invest in it.

The introduction of attestation systems for pedagogical staff in the sector of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the identification and encouragement of existing qualified pedagogues, ensuring the entry of young motivated specialists into the PSVE institution, offering them competitive salaries.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In recent years, both the sciences, assessment methods and information- communication technologies have changed significantly, through which the teaching process is carried out by new methods and strategies. The coronavirus epidemic demonstrated the importance of knowledge of hybrid strategies for distance lessons and teaching, the need for new methods of using ICT tools.

The current system does not reflect the qualitative characteristics of pedagogues and is not based on the assessment of the result. There is not a single case of a pedagogue being fired due to insufficient professional knowledge and skills. At the same time, the low salaries of pedagogues prevent new teachers from entering the system.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

An attestation system is operating, which will contribute to the development of professional qualities of the pedagogues, the targeted application of ICT in the education process, development of abilities among the learners, formation of competitive salaries.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

There are mechanisms required for the attestation, training of pedagogical staff of the institutions carrying out primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, which will contribute to the development of the pedagogical staff of the institutions carrying out primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education and the introduction of the system for the attestation thereof linking it to the remuneration mechanisms.

14.3. Attestation of pedagogical staff of institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education

1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action

Main objective of the Action is strengthening the human resources of educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

The obligation for the Action stems from point 4 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. In the modern world, teaching is a developing skill, so a pedagogue must continuously undergo trainings in the

conditions of ever-changing science, economy and society, which requires the state to attach importance to the professional development of the pedagogical staff and to invest in it.

The introduction of attestation systems for pedagogical staff in the sector of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the identification and encouragement of existing qualified pedagogues, ensuring the entry of young motivated specialists into the PSVE institution, offering them competitive salaries.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In recent years, science, assessment methods and information and communication technologies have undergone drastic changes, through which the teaching process is carried out by new methods and strategies. The coronavirus epidemic demonstrated the importance of knowledge of hybrid strategies for distance lessons and teaching, the need for new methods of using ICT tools.

The current system does not reflect the qualitative characteristics of pedagogues and is not based on the assessment of the result. There is not a single case of a pedagogue being fired due to insufficient professional knowledge and skills. At the same time, the low salaries of pedagogues prevent new teachers from entering the system.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

An attestation system is operating, which will contribute to the development of professional qualities of the pedagogues, the targeted application of ICT in the education process, development of abilities among the learners, formation of competitive salaries.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The pedagogical staff at educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education meets the established qualification requirements.

14.4. Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedure for awarding qualification categories to the pedagogical staff of institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education”

1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action

Main objective of the Action is strengthening the human resources of institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

The obligation for the Action stems from point 4 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3. EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The implementation of the Action is conditioned by Article 22 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia".

In the modern world, teaching is a developing skill, so a pedagogue must continuously undergo trainings in the conditions of ever-changing science,

economy and society, which requires the state to attach importance to the professional development of the pedagogical staff and to invest in it. The introduction of attestation systems for pedagogical staff in the sector of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the identification and encouragement of existing qualified pedagogues, ensuring the entry of young motivated specialists into the PSVE institution, offering them competitive salaries.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation:

In recent years, science, assessment methods and information and communication technologies have undergone drastic changes, through which the teaching process is carried out by new methods and strategies. The coronavirus epidemic demonstrated the importance of knowledge of hybrid strategies for distance lessons and teaching, the need for new methods of using ICT tools.

The current system does not reflect the qualitative characteristics of pedagogues and is not based on the assessment of the result. There is not a single case of a pedagogue being fired due to insufficient professional knowledge and skills. At the same time, the low salaries of pedagogues prevent new teachers from entering the system.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

An attestation system is operating, which will contribute to the development of professional qualities of the pedagogues, the targeted application of ICT in the education process, development of abilities among the learners, formation of competitive salaries.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

There are mechanisms required for granting of categories to pedagogical staff of the institutions carrying out primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, which will contribute to the development of the pedagogical staff of the institutions carrying out primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education and the introduction of the system for the attestation thereof linking it to the remuneration mechanisms. A mechanism for professional advancement of pedagogues, interrelated with the remuneration of work, is established in educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

14.5. Strengthening and improving capacities of the pedagogical staff teaching foreign languages, modernising the educational materials

1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the Action

Main objective of the Action is strengthening the human resources at educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education.

The obligation for the Action stems from point 4 of reforms of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

Knowledge of languages plays an important role in developing and strengthening the intercultural communication and cooperation. The expansion of

interstate relations, the deepening of trade and economic ties, the advancement of science and technology and the regular exchange of scientific and technical information are typical to modern societies. From this point of view, the role of foreign languages becomes more important as an effective means of scientific and technical progress in the world, socio-economic developments and intercultural relations, as well as contact, communication between representatives of different cultures.

Proficiency in foreign languages is also important for different professionals to follow the international developments in their profession, to communicate with foreign partners, to present their own experience and achievements on international platforms, to get acquainted with the experience of others and for other reasons. One of the priority tasks of the system is to promote the development of multilingualism in our country, preserving the mother tongue.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

After the educational reforms, serious qualitative shifts have been made in the field of foreign language teaching in primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational educational institutions, which are still not sufficient. The 21st century — as a century of active international, intercultural communication, information exchange — poses new challenges for nations and states, and in this context, the overcoming language barriers is paramount. It is obvious that a radical change in attitude towards foreign language teaching is necessary to meet the demands of the modern times. Therefore, in order not to fall behind the requirements of the time, as well as to improve the general educational process, it is urgently necessary to encourage every member of society, especially the youth, to learn and use foreign languages ensuring regional and international communication, which can contribute both to formation and development of the individual and the progress of the society.

One of the priority issues of the system is to promote the development of multilingualism in our country, preserving the mother tongue.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Radical change in attitudes towards foreign language teaching, training of specialists, elaboration of educational materials, which will contribute to the formation and development of a person, improvement of the general educational process, progress of the society, following the international developments in their profession, contacts with partners speaking a foreign language, employment of graduates, presentation of own experience and achievements on international platforms.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, every year at least 100 foreign language teachers of educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education will be trained, 1-2 educational manuals will be elaborated and published.

15 15.1. “Mapping PSVE institutions subject to reconstruction and repair, based on priority

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is increasing the attractiveness, accessibility of PSVE, ensuring the inclusiveness thereof.

The necessity for the Action derives from point 5 of the Reforms of primary /handicraft/ and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, point 1 of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education". In recent years, no significant changes have been made in the reconstruction and repair of PSVE institutions. The apparently deplorable condition of educational institutions leads to non-compliance with the requirements of the economy, which in turn jeopardises the ensuring of the quality and effectiveness of education. The creation of an appropriate educational environment will contribute to the continuous development of the system, the modernisation of vocational education and training in the PSVE sector, in particular, the capacity building of professional capabilities, the increase of the reputation and rating of vocational education and training.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In recent years, the building foundation of the education system has collapsed. It should be noted that the buildings of the PSVE institutions have not been repaired or restored in the last 15-20 years, mainly because of the lack of financial means, becoming crumbling, not ensuring an appropriate educational environment. Some of them have been restored in recent years at the expense of the State Budget and the means of international organisations. However, many PSVE establishments do not have sufficient building conditions, in particular, the repair of roofs, sewers and toilet facilities is urgent. The apparently deplorable condition of educational institutions leads to non-compliance with the requirements of the economy, which in turn jeopardises the ensuring of the quality and effectiveness of education. Based on the above-mentioned, the creation of a safe and secure environment becomes a priority, in particular, according to the assessed needs, the capital repair, seismic safety of buildings becomes a priority, taking into account the renewable methodology of education, standards for safety and universal access.

At the same time, in all key documents the development of the agricultural sector presently is defined as a priority sector for further economic development of the Republic of Armenia. In the current stage of development of agriculture in the Republic of Armenia special importance is attached to preparation of specialists skilful in agricultural production and knowledgeable in modern technologies applied in agrarian sector, to usage of the best international practice in the process thereof and taking into account its localisation – to the peculiarities of agriculture in our Republic. The current low level of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Armenia is mainly conditioned by the lack of relevant personnel, lack of professional knowledge and practical skills among the rural economic entities. Owing to unfavourable natural climatic conditions for managing agriculture, more importance is attached to the necessity for the acquisition of applied knowledge, practical skills and for the effective introduction of modern technological means in the production.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

To study the current state of the PSVE institutions of the Republic of Armenia, make relevant assessment, map the list of institutions subject to repair and reconstruction, based on priority.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, the priority list for reconstruction, repair of PSVE institutions will be defined.

15.2 Improving building conditions of the institutions providing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is increasing the attractiveness, accessibility of PRVE, ensuring the inclusiveness thereof.

The necessity for the Action derives from point 5 of the Reforms of primary /handicraft/ and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, point 1 of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education".

In recent years, no significant changes have been made in the reconstruction and repair of PSVE institutions. The apparently deplorable condition of educational institutions leads to non-compliance with the requirements of the economy, which in turn jeopardises the ensuring of the quality and effectiveness of education. The creation of an appropriate educational environment will contribute to the continuous development of the system, the modernisation of vocational education and training in the PSVE sector, in particular, the capacity building of professional capabilities, the increase of the reputation and rating of vocational education and training.

At the same time, in all key documents the development of the agricultural sector presently is defined as a priority sector for further economic development of the Republic of Armenia. In the current stage of development of agriculture in the Republic of Armenia special importance is attached to preparation of specialists skilful in agricultural production and knowledgeable in modern technologies applied in agrarian sector, to usage of the best international practice in the process thereof and taking into account its localisation – to the peculiarities of agriculture in our Republic.

The current low level of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Armenia is mainly conditioned by the lack of relevant personnel, lack of professional knowledge and practical skills of the rural economic entities. Owing to unfavourable natural climatic conditions for managing agriculture, more importance is attached to the necessity for the acquisition of applied knowledge, practical skills and for the effective introduction of modern technological means in the production.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In recent years, the building foundation of the education system has collapsed. It should be noted that the buildings of the PSVE institutions have not been repaired or restored in the last 15-20 years, mainly because of the lack of financial means, becoming crumbling, not ensuring an appropriate educational environment. Some of them have been restored in recent years at the expense of the State Budget and the means of international organisations. However, many PSVE establishments do not have sufficient building conditions, in particular, the repair of roofs, sewers and toilet facilities is urgent. The apparently deplorable condition of educational institutions leads to non-compliance with the requirements of the economy, which in turn jeopardises the ensuring of the quality and effectiveness of education. Based on the above-mentioned, the creation of a safe and secure environment becomes a priority, in particular, according to the assessed needs, the capital renovation, seismic stabilisation of buildings becomes a

priority, taking into account the renewable methodology of education, standards for safety and universal access.

At the same time, in all key documents the development of the agricultural sector presently is defined as a priority sector for further economic development of the Republic of Armenia. In the current stage of development of agriculture in the Republic of Armenia special importance is attached to preparation of specialists skilful in agricultural production and knowledgeable in modern technologies applied in agrarian sector, to usage of the best international practice in the process thereof and taking into account its localisation – to the peculiarities of agriculture in our Republic. The current low level of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Armenia is mainly conditioned by the lack of relevant personnel, lack of professional knowledge and practical skills among the rural economic entities. Owing to unfavourable natural climatic conditions for managing agriculture, more importance is attached to the necessity for the acquisition of applied knowledge, practical skills and for the effective introduction of modern technological means in the production.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Creation of relevant educational environment will contribute to the continuous development of the vocational education and training, in particular to the capacity building of professional capabilities in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, ensuring complete physical access for persons with disabilities, ensuring employment of graduates, increase of the reputation, quality and rating of vocational education and training.

Consolidation of educational institutions into one centre and ensuring opportunities for their intensive co-operation, repairing and re-equipping of Vanadzor Branch of Armenian National Agrarian University, Stepanavan State Agricultural College Named after Professor A. Kalantar, Gavar State Agricultural College after Academician A. Tamamshev and Vanadzor State Agricultural College, the educational institution being newly established in the territory of Aparan Community.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Construction works for reconstruction of "Nor-Geghi State Agricultural College named after Academician G.Aghajanyan", "Masis State Agricultural College", "Goris State Agricultural College named after Professor Kh. Yeritsyan", "Noyemberyan State College", "Stepanavan State Agricultural College named after Professor A. Kalantar", "Gavar State Agricultural College named after Academician A. Tamamshev", "Vanadzor State Agricultural College" SNCOs and the institution carrying out secondary vocational programme of Aparan Branch of "National Agrarian University of Armenia Foundation" are performed.

As a result of implementation of the Action, there will be repaired and re-equipped educational institutions, which will contribute to ensuring high level of professional knowledge, multi-profile infrastructures for the vocational education institutions to provide high-quality practical education.

15.3. Replenishing PSVE institutions with property and equipment

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is increasing the attractiveness, accessibility of PSVE, ensuring the inclusiveness thereof.

The necessity for the Action derives from point 5 of the Reforms of primary /handicraft/ and secondary vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, point 1 of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education". The obvious backwardness of the logistics and internship base from the modern high-tech industry leads to the non-compliance with the requirements of the economy, which in turn jeopardises the ensuring of quality and efficiency of education and consequently the preparation of qualified professional personnel.

Replenishing and equipping the educational institutions with relevant property and equipment will contribute to the continuous development of the system, modernisation of the equipment and the infrastructures, capacity building of professional capabilities. It will provide an opportunity for organising the vocational education and training more effectively, improve the employment of graduates, their professional skills and abilities by bringing them into compliance with the requirements of the labour market, contributing to the increase of the reputation and rating of vocational education and training.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It should be noted that the buildings of VET educational institutions have not been repaired or restored in the last 15-20 years, mainly because of the lack of financial resources and consequently have not been replenished with relevant equipment, property and do not have the necessary infrastructure, and therefore the vocational schools/colleges do not ensure relevant educational environment and high-quality education aimed at formation of abilities and skills.

The rapid development of technologies in the business sector, the emergence of new specialities, the preparation of qualified, professional personnel in compliance with the requirements of the labour market, the necessity for expanding the organisation of employment-based training, the necessity for organising practical training in parallel with the theory, implementing ability-oriented new modular curricula make the implementation of the action of replenishing the PSVE institutions and equipping them with relevant property and equipment more urgent.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Creation of relevant educational environment will contribute to the continuous development of the vocational education and training, in particular to the capacity building of professional capabilities in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, ensuring complete physical access for persons with disabilities, ensuring employment of graduates, increase of the reputation, quality and rating of vocational education and training.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, as of 2026, the PSVE institutions will be replenished and equipped with the relevant property and equipment, which will contribute to the continuous development of the system, modernisation of the equipment and infrastructures, capacity building of professional capabilities, organisation of the vocational education and training more effectively, improvement of the employment of the graduates, increase of the reputation and rating of vocational education and training.

15.4. Establishing PSVE institutions of agricultural profile

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is increasing the attractiveness, accessibility of PSVE, ensuring the inclusiveness thereof.

The necessity for the Action derives from the paragraph related to vocational education of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

At present, in all key documents, the development of the agricultural sector is defined as a priority sector for further economic development of the Republic of Armenia. In the current stage of development of agriculture in the Republic of Armenia special importance is attached to preparation of specialists skilful in agricultural production and knowledgeable in modern technologies applied in agrarian sector, to usage of the best international practice in the process thereof and taking into account its localisation – to the peculiarities of agriculture in our Republic.

The current low level of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Armenia is mainly conditioned by the lack of relevant personnel, lack of professional knowledge and practical skills among the rural economic entities. Owing to unfavourable natural climatic conditions for managing agriculture, more importance is attached to the necessity for the acquisition of applied knowledge, practical skills and for the effective introduction of modern technological means in the production.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, in all key documents, the development of the agricultural sector is defined as a priority sector for further economic development of the Republic of Armenia. In the current stage of development of agriculture in the Republic of Armenia special importance is attached to preparation of specialists skilful in agricultural production and knowledgeable in modern technologies applied in agrarian sector, to usage of the best international practice in the process thereof and taking into account its localisation – to the peculiarities of agriculture in our Republic. The current low level of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Armenia is mainly conditioned by the lack of relevant personnel, lack of professional knowledge and practical skills among the rural economic entities. Owing to unfavourable natural climatic conditions for managing agriculture, more importance is attached to the necessity for the acquisition of applied knowledge, practical skills and for the effective introduction of modern technological means in the production.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Creation of relevant educational environment will contribute to the continuous development of the vocational education and training, in particular to the capacity building of professional capabilities in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, ensuring complete physical access for persons with disabilities, ensuring employment of graduates, increase of the reputation, quality and rating of vocational education and training.

Consolidation of educational institutions into one centre and ensuring opportunities for their intensive co-operation, repairing and re-equipping of Vanadzor Branch of Armenian National Agrarian University, Vanadzor State Agricultural College, the educational institution being newly established in

	<p>the territory of Aparan Community.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, there will be newly established, as well as repaired and re-equipped 2 educational institutions of agricultural profile, which will contribute to ensuring high level of professional knowledge, multi-profile infrastructures for the vocational education institutions to provide high-quality practical education.</p>
16	<p>16.1. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia “On approving mechanisms for key performance indicators (KPI) of activities of higher education institutions and those for funding programme outcomes”</p> <p>16.2. Pilot introduction key performance indicators in at least 3 higher education institutions.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is introducing new mechanisms for funding with the inclusion of component of an effective, transparent, key performance indicators (KPI) in higher education system. The necessity for the Action derives from provision 6 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the 2021-2026 Programme approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, which envisages to introduce a new mechanism for financial means provided to higher education institutions.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to introduce key performance indicators in the higher education institutions. The implemented policy should provide minimum thresholds in terms of the quality of education, content and distribution of resources. For the effective implementation of these thresholds, it is necessary to have a policy of state support based on the final outcome. It is recommended to start the reforms by ensuring the minimum quality threshold; set a minimum state requirement and ensure that higher education institutions strive to meet it. As a result, strengthen the main processes of the higher education institution and build a capacity for solving more complex problems. In order to achieve the mentioned objective, it is recommended to introduce a system of management effectiveness indicators of higher education institutions.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to review the principles of financial means provided to higher education institutions. It is necessary to create an effective, performance-based and final outcome-based system for the management of higher education and to introduce new funding mechanisms depending on the outcome.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Educational institutions regularly elaborate strategic plans, effectiveness indicators and are accountable before the public through the accreditation. Institutional accreditation allows to evaluate the processes of the higher education institution based not only on the actual actions performed but also on the final outcomes achieved as a result. However, the system of key performance indicators in higher education institutions, with the exception of some of its components, is not introduced in higher education institutions, which does not comply with modern approaches — increase of management effectiveness.</p>

	<p>The current formula for funding higher education institutions is outdated: being developed during the Soviet era it does not reflect modern approaches. The formula provides only basic funding to higher education institutions, which does not create healthy competition between higher education institutions and interest in reforms or improvements. There is a need to increase the volumes of funding.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A system of management effectiveness indicators of higher education institutions is expected to be elaborated. The most commonly used groups of effectiveness indicators are the number of students who have successfully completed their education, the number of PhDs, the volume of income generated from a third source, research effectiveness, etc. It is expected to elaborate a new funding mechanism/formula which will include both basic and research component, and outcome-based funding proportions, as well as introduction of key performance indicators in at least 3 higher education institutions. The student will get scholarship, which will create additional competition between the higher education institutions with a perspective of quality improvement. The scholarship can be provided, for example, through grants, benefits, student loans, for which a new approach will also be formed.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The effectiveness indicators will be elaborated based on the imperatives of development of the higher education institution system and the special needs of the higher education institution. The study of international practice and the interviews with a number of higher education institutions state that the effectiveness indicators and their [lost meaning] will have a positive impact on the higher education system of the Republic of Armenia. It will lead to the implementation of the state target policy and will contribute to the effective application of the public resources. At the same time, the presented mechanism will allow to ensure transparency and accountability among higher education institutions and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Today, the autonomy of higher education institutions is much spoken about, for the complete operation whereof it is necessary to also have accountability mechanisms in order the compliance of the activities of higher education institutions and strategies/vision adopted by them becomes measurable. Higher education institutions do not sufficiently exercise their autonomy to attract additional resources. Therefore, it is expected to introduce an accountability mechanism. The progress made by higher education institutions will be assessed through accountability mechanisms and incentive measures will be taken, which will motivate higher education institution to initiate activities aimed at attracting funds from other sources.</p>
17	<p>17.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 597-N of 26 April 2012”</p> <p>1st outcome — For the purpose of supporting national minorities, allocation of up to 7 free seats each year under the Bachelor's educational degree in higher education (including continuing and integrated education programmes).</p> <p>The objective of expanding the inclusiveness of higher education is to ensure the continuity of the inclusive and high-quality education process available for the communities of national minorities, the timeframe for ensuring the implementation of the Action is defined to be the second ten-day period of April 2024.</p>

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to review the principles and mechanisms for admission to and expansion of inclusiveness in higher education system.

The necessity for the Action derives from provision 9 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Each year, tuition-free seats out of the reserve ones are allocated to the applicants being representatives of national minorities having scored positive points in the competitive examinations of the relevant specialities upon the decision of the Republican Admissions Commission of admission for on-site teaching of higher education institutions of the Republic of Armenia. The issue of distribution of tuition-free seats allocated to national minorities is not regulated by secondary regulatory legal acts and no admission of persons belonging to national minorities to the state or accredited non-state education institutions operating in the Republic of Armenia is conducted on account of tuition-free seats allocated for the admission of the given year upon the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Therefore, it is necessary to give a legal basis to the issue of allocating tuition-free seats to applicants representing national minorities.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the implementation of the Action, elaboration of a draft decision of the Government, circulation and submission thereof to the Office of the Prime Minister will be carried out.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of the Action, it is planned to organise high-quality education of the persons belonging to national minorities, promote the process of their involvement, annually conduct allocation of tuition-free seats under the Bachelor's degree of higher education, including by continuing and integrated education programmes.

2nd outcome — Elaboration of new mechanisms for admission and pilot introduction at least in 3 education programmes.

The timeframe for ensuring the implementation of the Action is defined to be the third ten-day period of June 2024.

The necessity for the Action derives from provision 9 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the existing procedure, the indication of a speciality is conducted in two stages — the first and the second, and the competition for admission to a higher education institution — by main and additional stages. The competition of the main stage is conducted by the indication of one

	<p>speciality (free of charge and fee-paid). The applicant must fill in the application the name of one higher education institution and one speciality prescribed by the list of specialities and admission examinations available for on-site teaching under Bachelor's, continuing and integrated education programmes of higher education institutions. After the results of the competition of the main stage of the admission examinations are approved, in case there are vacant places in higher education institutions, applicants having scored positive points from the admission examinations, but having failed the competition may participate in the additional competition for vacant places, by filling in an on-line application. The competition of the additional stage is conducted by the indication of one to six specialities of one higher education institution, where the applicant has a positive grade(s) from that (those) speciality(specialities) and there are vacant places for that specialities (free of charge and fee-paid).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The review of the principles for the admission to the higher education institution will provide new mechanisms, the objective whereof will be the establishment of new entry requirements of admission, new terms for conducting the competition. It is planned to create relevant legislative grounds and provide the higher education institutions an opportunity to establish the procedure for conducting a competition based on the criteria approved for conducting admission and to independently organise an admission competition, wherein persons meeting the requirements prescribed by law and entry requirements for the admission to higher education institution may participate, thus reducing the possibility to enter the higher education institution by a speciality which has been chosen randomly or was not preferred /the reason is the existence of the same examinations for the admission in different specialities/.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Establishment of new entry requirements for admission, new terms for conducting a competition will regulate the process of admission into higher education institutions, which will contribute to the professional orientation, emphasising the importance of choosing a specialty.</p> <hr/> <p>17.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Procedure for Providing Student Benefits and State Scholarships in Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Armenia" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1183-N of 2006" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to review the principles and mechanisms for admission to and expansion of inclusiveness in higher education system.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to contribute to separate groups of learners in state education institutions implementing higher and postgraduate vocational education programmes, which may fully or partially enjoy the benefit provided by the State, to regulate the amount of benefits granted to students having rates that are higher than the rate of family indigence, students of borderline communities receiving social assistance, students having participated in the combat operations, students having been admitted by a Bachelor's or integrated education programme in the prescribed manner, who have two or more minor children, as well as to set performance thresholds (AQS in higher education institutions), according to which the relevant</p>
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amounts of refund will be envisaged having the aim to promote and attach importance also to the performance of the learners, ensure continuous increase of the quality of education.

The necessity for the Action derives from point 8 of part 1 of Article 20 of the new draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On higher education and science” (the Law was adopted on 24 March 2021 by the National Assembly upon the 2nd reading), as well as from provision 7 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, as well as the necessity for fulfilling the first core objective "Educated and competent citizen" of the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the Procedure approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1183-N of 27 July 2006, the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall — within the limits of the funds earmarked for the higher education institutions under the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for the year concerned and according to specialities — annually distribute the amount of student benefits provided by the State, in accordance with part 4 of Article 6 of the Law "On higher and post-graduate professional education" (hereinafter referred to as the "Law"), according to which the refund of tuition fees in the form of student benefits shall be provided to the students having been admitted to higher education institutions based on the results of competition held, those showing high academic performance on the basis of the results of the academic year, or those considered as socially disadvantaged, as well as to the students receiving targeted teaching, including those from borderline or highland settlements irrespective of the learning system (free of charge, fee-paid), as prescribed by the law of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the number of seats and procedure approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Part 4 of Article 6 of the mentioned Law clearly defines the circle of persons, the refund of tuition fees whereof shall be provided in the form of student benefits, whereas the state policy in the sector of higher education is aimed at expanding the circle of persons — provided for by the law — receiving refund, the addressability, purposefulness and volumes of the financial support provided to students by the State, ensuring the availability and accessibility of higher education, the large-scale involvement of students of higher education institutions.

According to the principle prescribed by sub-point 5 of part 2 of Article 5 of the Law, the State shall ensure the development of higher and postgraduate vocational education in following ways: "Ensuring financial support to the educational institutions implementing programmes of higher and postgraduate professional education, as well as to learners at the institutions concerned in accordance with the requirements of the State;". Based on this principle, it is planned to enrol other separate groups of learners among the groups receiving refund of the tuition fee by the State.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Making amendments and supplements, ensuring a legal ground and an authorising norm will provide an opportunity to define — by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia — the circle of persons, provided for by the law, receiving refund in separate groups of learners of state education institutions implementing higher and post-graduate professional education, thus contributing to the expansion of the addressability, purposefulness and volumes of the financial support provided to students by the State and ensuring the availability and accessibility of higher

	<p>education, the large-scale involvement of students of higher education institutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is planned to have enlargement of groups involved in state education institutions implementing higher and post-graduate professional education programmes, enhancement of equal accessibility for different social groups, by mandatorily setting performance thresholds.</p>
18	<p>18.1. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia “On making supplements to Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia N 647-A/K of 3 July 2015 ‘On approving the education programmes for the specialities of higher professional education of the Republic of Armenia’”</p> <p>18.2. Allocation of up to 8 free seats under 2 education programmes for relevant academic years. Adopting the t Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to provide education in regional languages.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from provision 10 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the Action is to review the education programmes and draw up new programmes in regional languages aimed at meeting the requirements for the national security and development of economy. The reviewing of the list of specialities will contribute to the inclusion of the above-mentioned specialities, which are important for the State, into the list.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The force majeure situation in the Republic of Armenia in the last two years and the studies conducted have caused the need to review the list of specialities of strategic importance for the state. There is a need for qualified specialists having higher knowledge of regional languages.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Make supplements to Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia No 647-A/K of 3 July 2015 "On making supplements to the list of education programmes for the specialities of higher professional education (Master's degree) of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia No 647-A/K of 3 July 2015 "On making supplements to the list of education programmes for the specialities of higher professional education (Master's degree) of the Republic of Armenia" will be reviewed, education programmes and qualifications having strategic significance for the State will be included in the list,</p>

	which will help the higher education institutions to organise education in regional languages.
19	<p>19.1. Elaborating and approving the Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF) in accordance with the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) upon the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>19.2. Reviewing the content and structure of education programmes based on final learning outcomes arising from the Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks by continuous enlargement of the research component.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to review the content and structure of education programmes by focusing on final learning outcomes, in compliance with the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from provision 3 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the elaboration of the Sectoral Qualifications Framework is to ensure practical application of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in the system of higher education institutions and in the labour market.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Improvement, modernisation and quality assurance of the contextual base of higher education and the process of education are among the priority issues of the sector of higher professional education. Education programmes implemented by higher education institutions do not completely reflect final outcomes of the NQF knowledge, ability, skill, thus by the introduction of Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks an intermediate tool will be created for forming higher education programmes in compliance with the final outcomes of NQF.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Sectoral qualification frameworks must be elaborated in compliance with NQF. As a result, education programmes of higher education will be reviewed in compliance with the final outcomes of SQF knowledge, ability, skill.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, at least 7-20 Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks will be elaborated in order to bring the final outcomes of education programmes of higher education into compliance with the NQF. Education programmes are revised based on the educational final outcomes deriving from the Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks.</p>
20	<p>20.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On elaborating a concept paper on establishing an academic city".</p> <p>20.2. "Implementing the Actions arising from the concept paper of establishing an academic city.</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to elaborate a concept paper on establishing an academic city. The Necessity for the Action derives from the provision 12 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, the necessity to implement Action 9.4.2 of the ninth core objective "Reasonable regional development" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.</p> <p>In order to face the challenges, to respond positively, to have a competitive economy, it is necessary to create an attractive educational environment in the sector of education of the Republic of Armenia, by expanding infrastructures, ensuring availability of physical, virtual, social and modern research infrastructures: interprofessional research, network co-operation and synergy, close co-operation between higher education institutions, partnership with international higher education institutions, close co-operation with industry. The mentioned issues may be effectively solved through establishing an academic city, by elaborating a concept paper in advance, based on which actions prescribed by the Programme will be implemented in 2023-2026.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Today, the provision of high-quality education and competitive scientific research has become the most problematic and worrying issue in the world market, and the economies today compete and grow stronger through education and science. As a result of globalisation, large economies are able to increase their attractiveness by rapidly increasing volumes of investment in the sector and accumulating talents, whereas small economies, which are unable to develop a fast, innovative and flexible approach to their education and scientific and research policies, suffer significantly.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the implementation of the Action, elaboration of a draft decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, circulation and submission thereof to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia will be carried out.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action it is expected to have a concept paper on establishing an Academic City, which will include the main directions of the action for creating an attractive educational environment.</p>
21	<p>21.1. Reviewing and implementing programme accreditation criteria.</p> <p>21.2. Concluding memoranda of co-operation aimed at improving the relevant environment for conducting research in higher educational institutions.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is the ongoing improvement of higher education, ongoing increase of the research component in higher education.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to contribute to the ongoing improvement of higher education and to the ongoing increase of the research component in</p>

	<p>higher education. The necessity for the Action derives from provision 2 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the Action is also to get closer to the indicator 1.1.3 of the first core objective "Educated and competent citizen" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, programme accreditations do not bear a mandatory character, which has a significant impact on appropriate quality assurance of education.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to implement review of programme accreditation criteria.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to have reviewed programme criteria, based on which the programme accreditation will be implemented by at least 3 professional education programmes.</p>
22	<p>22.1. Establishing inter-university and inter-disciplinary experimental thematic labs and implementing programmes.</p> <p>22.2. Elaborating a new methodology funding through state support in the areas of natural sciences per student. Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to upgrade higher education quality in areas of natural sciences by bringing it to an international level through state support and institutional investments.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from provision 13 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 Education" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of implementation of the Action is also to get closer to the indicator 1.1.2 of the first core objective "Educated and competent citizen" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to contribute to the upgrading the higher education quality in areas of natural sciences by bringing it to an international level through state support and institutional investments.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The model of funding the higher education institutions by the State does not comply with the modern requirements for preparing a qualified and</p>

	<p>competitive specialist. The amount of money envisaged for one student while providing full refund of tuition fee by the State involves various components, which does not actually reflect the expense which will be spent for preparing a graduate in the given speciality, in particular for natural science specialities, where the preparation of a specialist is more costly, taking into account the factor of availability of logistics.</p> <p>By creating an inter-university and inter-disciplinary thematic labs, in compliance with the international standards, implementation of inter-sectoral research programmes (biology, physics, chemistry, material science, agroecconomics and between other sectors) and conduct of multi-profile research will be ensured, which will increase the effectiveness of money invested by the State in the development of human capital, as well as will form skills and abilities among students required by the labour market.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To enhance state support aimed at the development of the quality of higher education a new funding methodology will be elaborated — making state funding more fact-based and effective per student. One of the means of creating an applied result by the higher education institutions is the establishment of experimental thematic labs through the close co-operation between the higher education institutions and the localisation of the best international practice.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to have a newly elaborated methodology for funding of natural and technical sciences, as well as to have an environment — represented by experimental thematic labs — promoting research.</p>
23	<p>23.1. Ensuring the possibility of teaching separate courses or separate topics of the courses, educational modules and education programmes in a foreign language.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to expand the opportunities for internationalisation and mobility of higher education.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the provision 4 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, as well as the necessity to implement activities prescribed by indicators 1.1.1, 1.3.1 and 1.3.3 of the first core objective "Educated and competent citizen " of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to expand the opportunities for internationalisation and mobility of higher education, improve the education programmes in the higher education institutions in terms of structure and quality assurance, increase the level of awareness of foreign students about the education programmes, which will make the activities of the higher education institutions more visible at the international level and will make them a desired place for external stakeholders to conduct researches and receive higher education.</p> <p>The Action will contribute to the exchange of experience of teaching and administrative staffs and the expansion of opportunities for professional</p>

	<p>development, as well as to the involvement in trainings and international exchange programmes. Expand and strengthen the co-operation of Armenian higher education institutions with leading foreign higher education institutions through development of joint educational programmes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The internationalisation of higher education, despite some results, still does not meet international standards, which has led to an insufficient number of foreign students. Not all higher education institutions have educational programmes in foreign languages. Force majeure situations have become a reason for slowing down the international process. Therefore, the internationalisation of higher education of the Republic of Armenia — according to modern requirements — is one of the key preconditions for preparation of high-quality personnel and improvement of research. At present, the higher education institutions need to improve the mechanisms of continuous professional development of administrative and scientific, as well as pedagogical staffs in order to ensure the potential of lecturers to teach in a foreign language.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate teaching modules and education programmes in a foreign language, which will create conditions for improving the steps aimed at internalisation of higher education institutions.</p> <p>It is recommended to implement training and professional development programmes for academic and teaching, as well as administrative staffs, which will contribute to the introduction of education programmes in foreign languages, the increase of the potential of the lecturers to teach in a foreign language.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to have courses or separate topics of the courses in higher education institutions for teaching in a foreign language in at least 3 professions and to have more trainings for academic and teaching, as well as administrative staffs and greater involvement in international exchange programmes.</p>
24	<p>24.1. Participation of representatives of the Republic of Armenia in the meetings of the Bologna Follow-up Group and working groups</p> <p>24.2. Reviewing Section 8 of the Supplement of the Higher Education Graduation Document of the Republic of Armenia — the Diploma (description of the educational system). Adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is the reform of the higher professional education system due to the membership in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from provision 4 of Higher Education Reforms of Section "4.3 EDUCATION" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. On 19-20 May 2005, the Republic of Armenia became a member of the Bologna Process upon the Bergen Communiqué, by which Armenia undertook the implementation</p>

	<p>of the international principles of higher education established by that Process. The Republic of Armenia has been a part of the European Higher Education Area, the aim of which is to ensure the comparability and compatibility of the higher education system with the directions of the above-mentioned area as a result of the established co-operation. Ensuring sustainable participation of Armenia in activities of the European Higher Education Area by promoting consistent implementation of ongoing reforms in the national higher education system.</p> <p>Ensure open, transparent, complete information (also in English) on the higher education system, higher education institutions of Armenia, as well as current reforms in the system, ensuring that information is available and accessible not only in Armenia but throughout the world.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Representatives of the Republic of Armenia ensure the continuous participation of Armenia in the activities of the Bologna Secretariat, maintaining a platform for direct communication, interaction and discussion with the Ministries responsible for higher education of the EHEA member countries, as well as they are involved in the activities of coordinating the Bologna Process and drafting fundamental documents.</p> <p>It is planned to form a working group that will study the international trends in the development of higher education systems and will elaborate a strategy or a relevant programme for higher education reforms.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Bringing the advanced experience of the international system of higher education into compliance with the current national system.</p> <p>It is recommended to study the progress of higher education in different directions of the Bologna Process, by collecting and analysing the necessary data, and to prepare the national report on the regular stage of the EHEA of Armenia.</p> <p>It is recommended to review Section 8 of the Supplement of the Higher Education Graduation Document of the Republic of Armenia — the Diploma (description of the educational system).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the commitments made under the Bologna Process and the EHEA principles. Programmes aimed at international development trends and reforms in the sector of higher education are developed.</p>
25	<p>25.1. Elaborating and introducing a legal basis and institutional mechanisms (including a toolkit) for the collection of statistical quantitative and qualitative data on non-formal education.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to develop and disseminate non-formal education in the Republic of Armenia, as well as to recognise the outcomes of non-formal education.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from point "to encourage the establishment and development of youth centres in communities, encourage</p>

non-formal education, wider recognition and dissemination of youth work and volunteerism" of the Section "4.7 Youth" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It is known that in the modern dynamically changing world the requirements of the labour market are changing rapidly, a requirement for forming new skills and abilities emerges. At present, the lack of statistical data on the organisation of non-formal education, trainings, short-term courses does not allow to elaborate and implement a fact-based policy in this sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The creation of a legal basis for the collection of statistical quantitative and qualitative data on non-formal education is necessary for the implementation of accurate forecasts, the development and implementation of targeted and fact-based state policy.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

The Action will contribute to the creation of a legal basis and institutional mechanisms for the collection of statistical quantitative and qualitative data on non-formal education.

25.6. Raising awareness about non-formal education (including youth and adult learning and education) among the public through advocating the sector, and conducting public campaigns.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to develop and disseminate non-formal education in the Republic of Armenia, as well as to recognise the outcomes of non-formal education.

The implementation of the Action derives from point "to encourage the establishment and development of youth centres in communities, encourage non-formal education, wider recognition and dissemination of youth work and volunteerism" of the Section "4.7 Youth" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The objective is to raise public awareness about the importance of non-formal education in the Republic of Armenia through conducting public campaigns, recognition and widespread application of knowledge, skills, abilities and the value system acquired through non-formal education format.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

For years, non-formal courses and learning have been implemented by youth policy programmes and youth civil society organisations, but it is not recognised by the majority of the public as a tool through which it is possible to easily develop new skills and abilities, as well as to be a platform for exchanging experience and establishing co-operation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Raising awareness about organising non-formal education, learning and education of the youth and the adults and conducting public campaigns will provide an opportunity to clearly outline the implementation of non-formal education and the acquired outcomes, will contribute to the feedback between the labour market and education.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The Action will contribute to the exchange of experience between the youth, youth civil society organisations and other stakeholders and to the expansion of opportunities for professional development, as well as to the involvement in trainings and international exchange programmes.

Science

26. 26.1. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the category and criteria of scientific personnel in scientific organisations of the Republic of Armenia" and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
- 26.2. Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On defining the 2024-2028 priorities of science and technology development in the Republic of Armenia
- 26.3. Adopting a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the types of state scientific organisations, the requirements for structures and the criteria for classification thereof, including the indicators of the expected outcomes of the activities"
- 26.4. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the new procedures for basic, target-oriented, programme and thematic (grant) funding of scientific and scientific-technical activities" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
- 26.5. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2022-2026 Strategic Programme for Development of the Scientific Sector of the Republic of Armenia and the Schedule of Actions for implementation thereof" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
- 26.6. Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Programme Aimed at the Development of the Field of Armenian Studies and Humanities and the Schedule of Actions for implementing the Programme"
- ## 1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action
- The main objective of the Action is to improve the legal framework regulating the sector of science.
- The necessity for the Action derives from points (b) and (e) of part 1 of Article 14, part 3 of Article 17 and part 4 of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the objectives No 1, 2 and 3 of point titled "Improving the legal framework regulating the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National

Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Clarification of the legal framework regulating the sector of science is not less important for the development and smooth operation of the sector. In connection with the reforms having taken place in the sector of science and for the purpose of improving and modernising the legal relations in the field of scientific and scientific and technical activities, the legal acts regulating the sector need significant changes. Recent editions of a number of legal acts are still from the 2000s and do not take into account changes having taken place in the sector, as well as create legal barriers to the implementation of a number of innovative programmes.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The following are the programme objectives being implemented to solve the above-mentioned issues:

- Setting the minimum terms of productivity of scientific personnel, according to categories which will be implemented in late 2021 and will create a ground for conducting nation-wide attestation in 2026. Thus, we will set a higher threshold of quality for the scientific outcome and will clearly outline the path to professional growth in the sector of science, which will contribute to the motivation of scientists working effectively and will promote the effectiveness of work of the young scientific workers having entered the sector.
- Reviewing the basic, target and thematic (grant) categories of state funding and bringing them into compliance with the existing laws and the requirements of the state policy implemented in the sector, particularly by creating grounds for the application of an outcome-based funding model.
- Clarifying the requirements for scientific organisations and creating a relevant legal framework, as a result whereof the requirements for the structure of organisations will be set, which will provide the opportunity to have infrastructures that will be comprehensive and will fully contribute to scientific activities. In parallel with this, terms for enjoying centres for joint use will be elaborated.
- Defining the priority directions in the sector of science with a view to integration into the domain of smart specialisation of the European Research Area by the second quarter of 2023. Elaborating sectoral strategies according to the priority directions and implementing additional funding programmes according to those directions.
- Elaborating the 2022-2026 Strategic Programme for the Development of the Scientific Sector of the Republic of Armenia and the Schedule of Actions of implementing thereof, taking into account the course of implementation, the current and final outcomes of the actions enshrined by the 2017-2020 Strategic Programme for the Development of the Sector of Science of the Republic of Armenia approved by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 35 of the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 17 August 2017.
- Elaborating the programme aimed at the development of the field of Armenian Studies and Humanities and of the Schedule of Actions of implementing the programme:

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The following is submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the new procedure for basic funding; mechanisms based on the performance of funding of organisations are included, the mechanisms for maintaining the funding infrastructure and those for bonus or penalty are defined for basic funding; (b) the new procedure for thematic (grant) funding; (c) the new procedure for target-oriented, programme funding, which defines the procedures for achieving outcomes, assessing outcomes and intermediate monitoring. - The minimum terms of productivity of the scientific personnel are set according to categories, which will create a ground for conducting nation-wide attestation in 2024. - The requirements for the structure of organisations are set and submitted to the authorised body for approval. - The priority directions in the sector of science are defined, which serve as a basis for the elaboration of sectoral strategies and the implementation of additional funding programmes according to those directions. - The main directions of the state policy to be implemented in 2022-2026 in the field of scientific and scientific technical activities of the Republic of Armenia, the objectives and tactics of achieving those objectives, as well as the key indicators for the assessment of actions and outcomes complying with the tactics are stipulated. - The programme aimed at the development of the field of Armenian Studies and Humanities, as well as the schedule of actions for implementing the programme is approved.
27.	<p>27.1. Re-arming scientific centres with modern equipment</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to develop infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from points "(a) development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the intellectual potential of the society", "(i) formation of a modern infrastructure of science and information support system" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Basic Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1121 of 17 November 2001, and objective 1 of point 1 titled "Developing infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p>

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Most of the infrastructures and material and technical base of the scientific organisations and scientific subdivisions of the higher education institutions do not meet the modern science standards and do not ensure the effective use of the scientific potential. The absolute majority of scientific equipment is outdated, its technical condition does not provide an opportunity to conduct high-level scientific researches, especially applied researches, and the maintenance and operation thereof require great financial resources.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

One of the most important guarantees for increasing the effectiveness and competitiveness of scientific activities is the development of scientific infrastructures, which provides an opportunity to conduct competitive scientific researches not only with the help of modern scientific equipment and materials, but also by providing a favourable physical environment for scientific activities. For this purpose, it is recommended to re-arm scientific centres with modern research equipment, creating centres for joint use thereof. The established infrastructures are also important for addressing the issues concerning the sustainable development through researches of international-level, they also create preconditions for conducting applied researches with high potential for commercialisation.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The implementation of system programmes will provide an opportunity to modernise, in some cases, also to create new scientific and innovative infrastructures in the sector of science. Centres equipped with unique scientific equipment will be established in the joint centres of excellence or in the scientific and research organisations with already developed research infrastructures, for which the staff working on the devices will be trained and the procedures for their joint use will be introduced. As a result of the Programme, conditions will be created for complex researches in the experimental sciences, which will significantly increase the level of publications in those fields, as well as will provide an opportunity to co-operate with the manufacturing sector more closely and to conduct applied researches. In case of availability of developed infrastructures, the scientific and research organisations will also be able to engage in international research infrastructure consortia (such as the ERIC European Research Infrastructure Consortium), which provides an opportunity for a number of exchange programmes; at the same time, based on the developed infrastructures, it becomes significantly easier to attract international research grants.

27.2. Repairing scientific centres

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to develop infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities.

The necessity for the Action derives from point "(a) development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the intellectual potential of the society", "(g) integration into the international scientific and technical system", "(i) formation of a modern infrastructure of science and information support system" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy for the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points

"(f) development of international scientific and scientific and technical co-operation", "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" and "(h) creation of a system for selection and encouragement of prospective young scientists" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Basic Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1121 of 17 November 2001, and objective 1 of point 1 titled "Developing infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives also from the importance of the scientific and technological sector in achieving the sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia in the post-crisis period.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

No complex upgrade of research infrastructures has been conducted in scientific centres since the years of independence. As a result of a number of international grant programmes (INTAS, ISTC, CRDF, FP7, Horizon2020, WB) and state assistance programmes, actions of certain replenishment with modern equipment have been implemented, but in many sectors the experimental base is not yet complete. In some cases, the building conditions have been improved at the expense of internal resources or credit programmes, but no activities of complete repair have been carried out; most of the scientific and research facilities have an unattractive and dilapidated appearance.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Repair of scientific centres for attractive and presentable appearance, which will lead to an improvement in attitudes towards work and the inflow of young personnel and foreign researchers, as well as the establishment of international co-operation and raising their level.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

More favourable environment for research, as well as conditions for effective use of human and physical resources are available: 1-2 repaired centres annually.

27.3. Implementing state programmes aimed at consolidation of small scientific organisations close in research fields into large scientific centres

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to develop infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities.

The necessity for the Action derives from point "(a) — development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the intellectual potential of the society", "(g) integration into the international scientific and technical system", "(i) formation of a modern infrastructure of science and information support system" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy for the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(f) development of international scientific and scientific and technical co-operation", "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-

being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" and "(h) creation of a system for selection and encouragement of prospective young scientists" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Basic Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1121 of 17 November 2001, and objective 2 of point 1 titled "Developing infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, the existing number of scientific organisations and their dimension are not enough to increase the effectiveness of scientific and scientific and technical activities and to conduct competitive researches; structural reforms are being carried out slowly in the field; no modern system for organisation and management of work is introduced.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to consolidate small scientific organisations close in the research fields into large scientific centres for the purpose of creating a more favourable environment for researches, as well as using the human and physical resources more effectively.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

There are a number of large science centres with no less than 100 scientific workers. As a result, we will have conditions for effective use of physical and administrative resources, most of the financial allocations will be directed to the organisation of researches, unnecessary costs for maintenance will be reduced and preconditions will be created for the creation of a scientific environment: 1-2 consolidated centres annually.

27.4. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On establishing an institution for transferring technologies aimed at promoting and assisting innovative and science-driven entrepreneurship"

27.5.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Actions is to develop infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities.

The necessity for the Action derives from point "(e) integrating science, education and production" of point 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(c) supporting the competitiveness and entrepreneurial activities in the field of science and technology", "(d) encouraging scientific, scientific and technical and innovative activities" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the objectives 3 and 4 of point 1 titled "Developing infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities" of Section "4.4

SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and part 4 of Article 146 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Scientific and scientific and technical activities often face requirements for conducting researches in compliance with the market and for commercialising the outcomes of the research, but it is necessary to take into account that there are no relevant infrastructures or the existing ones are not at a sufficient level in the Republic of Armenia to separate the researches with prospect of commercialisation from the outcomes of the research and to commercialise them, to assess market requirements and to formulate requirements; such infrastructures may be the facility of the transfer of technology and funds for appropriate support (angel investors, venture funds, national high-risk investment funds).

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to:

- introduce mechanisms for promoting and assisting innovative and science-driven entrepreneurship;
- establish a National Foundation for Assessment of Risky Science to Business Initiatives and Investments, by allocating up to AMD 10 billion capital budget for that.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result, it is expected to have:

- national system for technology transfer, as well as reliable and comprehensive procedures for intellectual property protection, which together will enable the establishment of a science-to-business path;

27.5 Concluding inter-state or inter-agency treaties and agreements in scientific and scientific-technical field

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to develop infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities.

The necessity for the Action derives from point "(a) — development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the intellectual potential of the society", "(g) integration into the international scientific and technical system", "(h) development and dissemination of scientific and technical culture" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy for the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(f) development of international scientific and scientific and technical co-operation", "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and

technical activities", the Procedure for Contractual (Thematic) Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1122 of 17 November 2001, and objective 5 of point 1 titled "Developing infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Negotiations with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research have now been completed, and a new Armenian-German research grant programme has been announced, the objective of which is the compiling of major international grant programmes as a result of mutual visits and researches. Negotiations on Armenian-Egyptian and Armenian-Swiss scientific co-operation are underway, the success of which will emerge a necessity for a programme of mutual visits of scientists or for announcing a joint research grants. It is planned to resume the negotiations on the implementation of Armenian-French bilateral programmes, as well as to start negotiations on Armenian-Korean, Armenian-Japanese, Armenian-Indian and Armenian-Chinese joint programmes. Negotiations on Armenia's association to the EU Horizon Europe Framework Programme are also underway.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to:

- expand the geography of international partnerships on the basis of inter-state or inter-agency treaties;
- associate with European framework programmes and promotion of the active participation of Armenia in framework programmes.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result:

- we will have institutional level of co-operation with the most developed countries of the world, within the framework whereof both researches of world significance and a number of mobility programmes will be carried out;
- favourable conditions for the exchange of experience will be created, as well as an opportunity will be provided to participate in large-scale multilateral research programmes and to develop internal capacities and infrastructures.

27.6. Implementing programmes targeted at association with European framework programmes and promotion of the active participation of Armenia in framework programmes

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is to develop infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities.

The necessity for the Action derives from point "(a) development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the

	<p>intellectual potential of the society", "(g) integration into the international scientific and technical system", "(h) development and dissemination of scientific and technical culture" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy for the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(f) development of international scientific and scientific and technical co-operation", "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Contractual (Thematic) Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1122 of 17 November 2001, and objective 6 of point 1 titled "Developing infrastructures favourable for the competitive scientific activities" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2020, the EU Framework Programme "Horizon 2020", of which the Republic of Armenia was an associate member, was completed; about EUR 4 million were transferred by the Republic of Armenia for the participation in the programme, in return for which EUR 3.8-4.2 million of grant funds were attracted by the organisations of the Republic of Armenia. For the purpose of supporting the participation of the Republic of Armenia, the system of National Contact Persons has been established, which operates on a voluntary basis, as a result of which no sufficient level of support is provided to the participants.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to approve the package of programmes of promoting the participation of the Republic of Armenia in the framework programmes, in which the issues of separate authorities will be clarified and the mechanisms for the intensification and promotion of the participation will be prescribed.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result, the volumes of the amounts being involved in the Republic of Armenia will increase, as well as the effectiveness and the scale of participation of the Republic of Armenia will increase. As a result of this, the international practice and research culture will be brought to the Republic of Armenia, as well as researchers of the Republic of Armenia will work on research programmes of world importance through consortium programmes.</p>
28	<p>28.1. Implementing programmes aimed at supporting the studies of PhD students and young applicants</p> <p>28.2. Implementing programmes for post-doctoral research</p> <p>28.3. Implementing programmes for professional training and qualification upgrade of employees of scientific organisations at the best scientific centres abroad</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Actions is to upgrade the qualification of workers in the sector of science and engage young personnel.</p>

The necessity for the Actions derives from point "(a) — development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the intellectual potential of the society", "(g) integration into the international scientific and technical system", "(h) development and dissemination of scientific and technical culture" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy for the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(f) development of international scientific and scientific and technical co-operation", "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" and "(h) creation of a system for selection and encouragement of prospective young scientists" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Contractual (Thematic) Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1122 of 17 November 2001, and objectives 1, 2 and 3 of point 2 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, one of the most important issues that the sector of science of the Republic of Armenia faces is the maintenance of scientific schools having scientific traditions and corresponding to the international level, as well as ensuring a personnel base for sustainable development of new research directions necessary to meet the needs of the Republic. It is necessary to take into account that in the sector of science of the Republic of Armenia it is necessary to develop and introduce a mechanism for the continuous development of the career of a scientific worker. One of the steps in that career is the PhD study, when a student acquires the skills to do scientific work. The next is postdoctoral fellowship, when the persons having newly defended the scientific thesis are provided an opportunity to receive postdoctoral status for some period (generally for a term of two years with the possibility of extending that time period for one year) during the period of 5 years following the taking of scientific degree to further develop their professional skills and to make a final decision on implementation of future professional activities in the sectors of science or scientific education. The next step is to have the opportunity to hold various positions of various categories by a scientific worker, which means a remuneration of work close to European standards at all stages, the opportunity to move to the next level of the career on a competitive basis, which will not underestimate professional achievements and the opportunity to choose a work place by participating in competitions of various organisations.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- implementing grant programmes to support PhD studies in order to support PhD students involved in leading groups in the Republic of Armenia and organise PhD education at the best centres abroad, as a result of which we will have about 425 PhD students (stakeholders) of the Programme by 2026;
- implementing programmes for post-doctoral research in order to shape experience for newly graduated researchers to be self-employed and work on more leading issues, as a result of which, in 2026, we will have at least 173 young researchers having participated in the leading research

	<p>programmes in the best centres of the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mid-term and long-term programmes for professional training and upgrade of qualification of employees of scientific organisations at the best scientific centres of the world, by ensuring at least 255 trained scientific workers by 2026, who will not only be knowledgeable in modern scientific methods and skills, but will also have established ties and co-operations of various levels with their international partners. <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Upgrading the qualification of employees in the sector of science and solving the issue of succession of generation and development in the sector of science by involving young personnel.</p>
29	<p>29.1. Implementing the process of normalisation of salaries of scientific personnel involved in the basic funding programmes of scientific and scientific-technical activities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science.</p> <p>The necessity for the Actions derives from points "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" and "(h) creation of a system for selection and encouragement of prospective young scientists" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Basic Funding of Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1121 of 17 November 2001, point 2 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" and point 3 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, and from point 7 of the pre-election promises and programmes voiced by the acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan during the pre-election period of the early parliamentary elections of 2021 (4 June 2021, Town of Artashat, Ararat Marz).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>One of the most important issues that the sector of science today faces is the issue of effective reproduction of scientific personnel. There is a significant outflow of scientific personnel, first of all, young people from the sector of science, including abroad. As a result, such changes in the composition of personnel in the sector of science lead to rapid "aging" of science, qualitative changes in the professional level of scientific researches; the smooth process of succession of generation is disrupted, which can — in the next 5 years — have a serious negative impact on the scientific system, as well as low inflow of young personnel and low stability in the workplace.</p> <p>On the other hand, we have a lack or an extremely low number of professional potential in a number of leading sectors of the world.</p> <p>Since 2010, the salary fund of scientific workers has not been reviewed, as a result of which, taking into account inflation and the devaluation of AMD,</p>

the basic state salary of scientific workers is at a very low level, averaging AMD 100 000 (including taxes), which makes the sector of science unattractive for young people and at the same time does not motivate the scientific workers to prepare new personnel.

Proceeding from the above-mentioned circumstances, as well as with the aim of contributing to the increase of social reputation of science in the scientific and scientific and technical sector, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, solving their social problems — which are enshrined as the main goals and principles of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector by point (c) of part 1 and point (g) of part 2 of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities" — amendment and supplements were made to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1121 of 17 November 2001 by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 747-L of 13 May 2021, according to which starting from 1 January 2022, the salaries of the scientific personnel included in the basic funding programmes of scientific and scientific and technical activities financed from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia will gradually increase, reaching comparable and compatible values in the state system throughout the Republic.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

According to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1121 of 17 November 2001, it is necessary to normalise the basic salary of the scientific personnel included in the basic funding programmes of scientific and scientific and technical activity from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia from 1 January 2022, according to the category of the latter.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Gradual increase of salaries of scientific personnel included in the basic funding programmes of scientific and scientific-technical activities based on the results of attestation of scientific personnel in 2021, bringing them to the following indicators in 2025:

laboratory assistant or engineer — AMD 138.3 thousand,

senior laboratory assistant or senior engineer — AMD 179.0 thousand,

junior research fellow — AMD 210.0 thousand,

research fellow — AMD 276.0 thousand,

senior research fellow — AMD 343.0 thousand,

leading research fellow — AMD 443.8 thousand,

chief research fellow — AMD 552.9 thousand,

head of the scientific group — 410.0 thousand,

head of the scientific unit — 477.2 thousand.

29.2. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the programme of nationwide attestation of scientific personnel" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

29.3. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the methodology of performance evaluation of scientific organisations and the schedule of implementation of actions based on the performance" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The main objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science.

The necessity for the Actions derives from Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Qualification and Standards of Assessment of Scientific Personnel in Scientific Organisations of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 935 of 3 October 2001, objectives 2 and 3 of point 3 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and part 4 of Article 146 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The reforms taking place recently in the sector of science of the Republic of Armenia assume increase of volumes of funding allocated to the sector of science from the State Budget and the private sector of the economy. Such an approach is conditioned both by the key role of science in the development of the modern economy and society, as well as by the imperative of preparing highly qualified personnel necessary to create a knowledge-based economy in the Republic. For the purpose of significantly increasing the funding of the sector of science, it is necessary to implement actions to increase the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science will be increased by setting international standards for research and introducing mechanisms for performance evaluation. The following are the goals of the programmes being implemented to meet the objective.

- Nationwide attestation of scientific personnel in order to engage promising and prospective personnel instead of ineffective personnel.
- Reviewing the basic funding model of scientific organisations, with the introduction of a five-year programme funding model, and implementing bonus programmes in more effective organisations for the purpose of expanding the personnel base and creating new sub-divisions or attracting new personnel. Introducing multi-level and multi-component responsibility mechanisms for organisations working with low-effectiveness, reducing administrative liability and financial resources allocated to the organisation.
- Reviewing the objectives of competitively funded programmes and defining the outcome indicators, as a result of which larger-scale and higher-

quality research programmes will be launched instead of smaller-scale programmes, including also a number of leading/primary directions of researches, creating an internal resource for mastering future technologies, as well as for elaborating and developing those technologies. For this purpose, additional funds will be attracted both from the State Budget, and from other EU and international programmes. In this series, the volumes and durations of applied result-based or dual-purpose programmes will also be reviewed, allowing for additional funding for programmes having the potential to undergo some commercialisation or to pass from researches to experimental development.

- Implementing a number of new competitive programmes for the purpose of engagement of the potential of the Diaspora more effectively for resettlement or the establishment of remotely controlled laboratories, with the plan to have nearly 60 scientists and nearly 60 remotely controlled scientific groups having returned to the Republic of Armenia by the year of 2026 which will not only conduct modern scientific researches, but will also prepare personnel who are capable of carrying out creative work in the sector of high technology.
- Introducing by 2023 a unified electronic platform for management of the sector of science, through introduction of a rating system that will provide an opportunity to conduct monitoring of effectiveness at all levels (from individual researcher to scientific organisation) in an on-line mode and have a tool-kit to identify and address problems in a timely manner, which will also provide an opportunity to introduce new and multi-tier incentive mechanisms.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- The programme for nationwide attestation of scientific personnel, which will serve as a basis for differentiation of scientific personnel, meeting the high productivity requirements, according to categories, and the review of funding allocated to scientific organisations according to the name-list of positions of scientific personnel, is approved.
- The methodology for performance evaluation of organisations is approved and the basic assessment of performance of scientific organisations is carried out.

Introducing a 5-year mechanism for basic funding in organisations with highest performance. Implementing a bonus programme for preparing scientific personnel within the scope of the basic funding.

- Large-scale programmes, research programmes with higher criteria for final output, including in leading/priority directions of research as well are implemented instead of small-scale programmes.
- There are around 60 scientists and around 60 remotely supervised scientific groups having returned to the Republic of Armenia, which, in addition to modern scientific researches, also conduct training of personnel who are capable of carrying out creative work in the high-tech field.
- Mechanisms for the process of on-line permanent monitoring of effectiveness at all levels — from individual researcher to scientific organisation are introduced, a toolkit for early identification and addressing of problems is available, the improved version that is adapted to the user is released in 2023.

29.4. Establishing re-integration or remotely controlled laboratories

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The main objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science.

The necessity for the Action derives from point "(a) — development of the scientific and scientific and technical potential of the Republic, its rational distribution and maintenance, formation of an effective system for preparation of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, reproduction of the intellectual potential of the society", "(g) integration into the international scientific and technical system", "(i) formation of a modern infrastructure of science and information support system" of part 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy for the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(f) development of international scientific and scientific and technical co-operation", "(g) increase of the social standing of science, ensuring the well-being of scientific and scientific and technical personnel, their social, economic and legal protection" and "(h) creation of a system for selection and encouragement of prospective young scientists" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Funding Contractual (Thematic) Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1122 of 17 November 2001, and objective 5 of point 3 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Implementing a re-integration grant programme with a view to creating conditions for the return of Diaspora Armenian scientists having achieved certain successes.

Creating distance laboratories with a view to engaging reputable Diaspora scientists for the distance supervision of groups formed in the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to fund up to 10 research groups — supervised by Armenian scientists working at leading centres abroad and having returned to the Republic of Armenia — for 3-5 years each year within the scope of the re-integration grant programme according to sectoral and professional priorities (including the humanitarian and social science sectors). Up to 20 research groups supervised by a (co-)supervisor working in leading centres abroad are envisaged as a result of establishing distance laboratories (data science, artificial intelligence, other soft sciences).

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result, we will have:

establishment and development of new scientific priority directions;

	<p>introduction of the international knowledge to Armenia;</p> <p>at least 30 highly-qualified young scientific workers (per year);</p> <p>at least 20 publications in Q1 or Q2 periodicals (per year);</p> <p>establishment and development of new scientific directions;</p> <p>at least 60 highly-qualified young scientific workers;</p> <p>at least 60 publications in Q1 or Q2 periodicals.</p>
	<p>29.5. Introducing a unified electronic platform for management of the sector of science</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from objective 6 of point 3 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is currently no on-line system containing comprehensive information on activities of scientific organisations and scientific sub-divisions of higher education institutions, the absence whereof gives rise to difficulties in conducting permanent monitoring of effectiveness within the scope of scientific topics and/or programmes implemented by scientific organisations and scientific sub-divisions of higher education institutions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to introduce a unified electronic platform for management of the sector of science by 2023 through the introduction of a rating system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introduction of a unified electronic platform for management of the sector of science by 2023 through the introduction of a rating system will provide the opportunity to conduct on-line permanent monitoring of effectiveness at all levels (from individual researcher to scientific organisation) and have a toolkit for early identification and addressing of problems, which will also provide the opportunity to introduce a new and multi-layer mechanisms for incentives.</p>
	<p>29.6. Implementing programmes aimed at supporting research in the fields of social sciences, Armenian studies and the humanities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

	<p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point "(j) contributing to the development of Armenian studies" of point 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for Funding Contractual (Thematic) Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1122 of 17 November 2001, and objective 7 of point 3 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>State allocations in the amount of AMD 2,204,887.6 thousand are currently being allocated to the sector of social sciences, Armenian studies and the humanities, but the number of publications in international scientific indexing journals remains quite low.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The roadmap for implementing actions in the sector will be specified upon the approval of the action plan for development of the sector, whereby programmes aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the sector will be implemented, including a programme for indexing a few of the local periodicals in international databases, a number of targeted programmes will be implemented upon defining a high level of quality of the final output and research, by bringing the volume of funding of the field to around AMD 2,500,000.0 thousand in 2026 as a result.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the Actions, the international visibility of the sector will increase, and we will have an essential quantitative and qualitative growth in international periodicals with respect to published works.</p>
	<p>29.7. Implementing a programme aimed at supporting dual significance researches</p> <p>29.8. Supporting scientific projects aimed at achieving an applied result</p> <p>29.9. Implementing programmes aimed at supporting researches in priority directions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from points "(b) encouraging the investment of scientific and technical achievements for the purpose of the development of economy", "(d) supporting the safety of a person, the society and the state", "(e) integrating science, education and production" of point 1 titled "Main objectives of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector", points "(b) ensuring the development of fundamental scientific researches, priority directions of science and technology", "(c) supporting the competitiveness and entrepreneurial activities in the field of science and technology", "(d) encouraging scientific, scientific and technical and innovative activities" of part 2 titled "Main principles for implementation of the state policy in the scientific and scientific and technical sector" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities", the Procedure for</p>

	<p>Funding Contractual (Thematic) Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1122 of 17 November 2001, and objectives 8 and 9 of point 3 titled "Increasing the effectiveness of state funding in the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021. The reforms taking place recently in the sector of science of the Republic of Armenia assume increase of volumes of funding allocated to the sector of science from the State Budget and the private sector of the economy. Such approach is conditioned by realising the key role of science in the development of modern economy and society, as well as perceiving the exceptional role of science for achieving sustainable development in the post-crisis period.</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will contribute to achieving indicator 15.1.1 of ACTION 15 titled "KNOWLEDGE-BASED (INTANGIBLE) ARMENIA" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2050".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the competitive programmes for supporting dual significance programmes and supporting programmes aimed at achieving an applied result are being implemented by the Science Committee of the Republic of Armenia, and an essential review of the conditions thereof has not been conducted yet. Currently, there is a need for implementing both the conditions for the final output and the conditions for selection of applications and funding. It is necessary to establish opportunities and mechanisms for the further development of successfully completed programmes as well. Implementation of special programmes in priority directions of development of science and technology gains a special importance, which will be targeted at creating or developing competitiveness of the Republic of Armenia in the directions indicated.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Improving the conditions of Competitions for applications for supporting the implementation of dual significance programmes and scientific projects aimed at achieving an applied result for the purpose of promoting researches deriving from the demands of the economy of the country, as well as creating highly-competitive technological products of dual significance, increasing the number of topics guaranteed for funding as a result of the competition, increasing the average monthly salary of the research group. Providing additional financial resources to the following priority directions: data science, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, smart agriculture, biotechnology, material science, chemistry, physics, mathematics and other directions recognised as priorities, as well as engaging higher education institution-research centres, interested groups and organisations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Volumes of funds allocated for the implementation of researches of defence and civil significance and duration of programmes will be increased, as well as mechanisms for the further development of successfully completed programmes will be created.</p> <p>The conditions of the competition for applications for scientific projects aimed at achieving an applied result will be improved, the number of topics guaranteed for funding will be increased as compared to the number of the topics of the previous competition as a result of the competition, and the average monthly salary of the research group and the funds aimed at acquiring necessary materials will be increased, mechanisms for transferring successful</p>
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	<p>programmes to further levels of commercialisation will be created.</p> <p>Additional financial resources will be provided for the following leading directions defined according to priorities: data science, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, smart agriculture, biotechnology, material science, chemistry, physics, mathematics and other directions recognised as priorities.</p>
30	<p>30.1. Submitting the draft Amendments to the “‘Procedure for granting scientific degrees of professor and assistant professor to the scientific-pedagogical personnel in the Republic of Armenia’ approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 615 of 9 July 2001” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring an effective system for granting scientific degrees and academic ranks in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 5 titled “Improving the legal framework regulating the sector of science” of Section “4.4 SCIENCE” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and sub-point “g” of point 1 of Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On scientific and scientific and technical activities”. One of the objectives of the Action is the clarification of the provisions existing in the Procedure, which will provide an opportunity to avoid misinterpretations.</p> <p>The need for reviewing and amending the Regulation is conditioned by a number of circumstances. One of the necessary conditions for granting an academic rank is the availability of “scientific-pedagogical” service record. The latter is problematic insofar as the concept of “scientific-pedagogical service record” is not defined by any legal act, and gives a ground for subjective approach and dissent for calculation. Criteria for granting an academic rank need to be reviewed in general, but certain fields — culture, sport, architecture, are regulated based on distinguished criteria. The latter need to be clarified.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation Today, there is a need to review the indicated procedure in terms of clarifying the criteria for granting ranks, giving new formulations in the procedure, and decreasing subjective interpretation of provisions and corruption risks.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to identify — with the engagement of higher education institutions, scientific organisations and individual scientists — the polysemantic provisions existing in the procedure for granting ranks and give such formulations thereto which will not give rise to misinterpretations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the Actions, it is envisaged to have a procedure for granting scientific degrees of professor and assistant professor to the scientific-pedagogical personnel in the Republic of Armenia, which will be essentially free from provisions giving rise to misinterpretations despite the procedure in effect.</p> <p>30.2. Submitting the draft Order “On approving the name lists of professions of granting scientific degrees and academic ranks in the Republic of Armenia and repealing Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia No 13-N of 15 June 2020” to the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring an effective system for granting scientific degrees and academic ranks in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 5 titled “Improving the legal framework regulating the sector of science” of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and sub-point 1 of point 3 of Article 15.2 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities". The objective of the Action is bringing the name lists of granting scientific degrees and scientific-pedagogical ranks into compliance with up-to-date international requirements and principles, taking into account the local capacities.</p> <p>Reviewing the name lists of granting scientific degrees and scientific-pedagogical ranks is dictated by the requirement of the time, according to which the increase or decrease in interest in certain branches of science, as well as scientists working in the given branch leads to incompliance of up-to-date scientific and research directions and name lists of scientific defence and academic ranks, and reviewing and supplementing the latter become necessary from the point of view of increasing the effectiveness of organising the process.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>It is necessary to review and modernise the name lists of granting scientific degrees and academic ranks for the purpose of approving a professional composition complying with the number of professions in professional boards and approving the academic topics by an accurate number. Currently, there are several numbers the field of scientific defence or name of profession whereof need to be corrected, supplemented or amended. This issue is one of the issues existing in the process of scientific defence.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Reviewing and re-approving the name lists of granting scientific degrees and scientific-pedagogical ranks with the engagement of members of professional boards.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the Actions, it is envisaged to have new name lists of granting scientific degrees and academic ranks in the Republic of Armenia, which will comply with the potential having and the number of scientists by the given profession.</p>
	<p>30.3. Re-elaborating and approving the conditions for scientific periodicals published in the Republic of Armenia by the order of the Chairperson of the Supreme Certifying Committee</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring an effective system for granting scientific degrees and academic ranks in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 4 titled “Improving the legal framework regulating the sector of science” of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the</p>

	<p>Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and paragraph 1 of point 10 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 327 of 8 August 1997 "On approving the regulation on scientific defence in the Republic of Armenia". Existing requirements set before scientific periodicals acceptable for reflecting the main provisions of dissertations do not contribute to the international co-operation, international review and engagement of quality articles.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Re-elaborating the conditions set before scientific periodicals published in the Republic of Armenia is extremely important as the main provisions of dissertations are reflected in the scientific periodicals acceptable for the SCC as articles. Increasing the quality of the periodicals included in that list will reflect on increasing the quality of dissertations as well.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Re-elaborating the conditions set before scientific periodicals needs to be organised with the participation of editors of the periodicals, taking into account the conditions set for inclusion of periodicals in international scientific databases.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result, we will have re-elaborated conditions which will contribute to the inclusion of scientific periodicals in international scientific databases. Besides, the average quality of articles published in scientific periodicals complying with the new conditions will increase, which will promote the increase of the quality of dissertations as well.</p>
	<p>30.4. Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for granting scientific degrees in the Republic of Armenia and on repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 327 of 8 August 1997"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring an effective system for granting scientific degrees and academic ranks in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 5 titled "Improving the legal framework regulating the sector of science" of Section "4.4 SCIENCE" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and sub-point "g" of point 1 of Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific and technical activities". Introducing the institute of co-supervisor, promoting international co-operation, providing permission for scientific supervision to candidates having articles in periodicals with impact factor are of the objectives of the implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The existing "Procedure for scientific defence in the Republic of Armenia" does not provide an opportunity to have a co-supervisor. Besides, candidates may be appointed as scientific supervisor when they have at least 30 printed works in the relevant scientific field, which does not allow candidates having</p>

	<p>publications in periodicals fewer in number but having an impact factor to be appointed as scientific supervisor.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to identify — with the engagement of higher education institutions, scientific organisations and individual scientists — the issues existing in the regulation on scientific defence and elaborate such provisions of the regulation which will eliminate the existing hindrances to international co-operation, will be based not only on quantitative but also qualitative indicators.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, an opportunity for closer co-operation with Armenian scientists in the Diaspora will be created.</p>
31	<p>31.1. Adding new functions to the anti-plagiarism software</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of the fight against plagiarism.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the technological support of implementation of amendments relating to point 5 titled “Improving the legal framework regulating the sector of science” of Section “4.4 SCIENCE” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. There are approaches used for concealing cases of plagiarism, having already become standard. By applying those approaches, it is managed in some cases to hinder the detection of existence of plagiarism by the operating computer software. The objective of the implementation of the Action is to fill the gap in the anti-plagiarism computer software.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The anti-plagiarism computer software has been effective in revealing cases of plagiarism, but methods for overcoming it have been developed during the years, which has decreased the effectiveness of that computer software.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A need has arisen to re-equip the software with new functionality, which will make the application of known methods of concealing plagiarism ineffective.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result, we will be able to prevent approval of the scientific degree in case the dissertation contains materials borrowed from other sources without references, even when certain techniques will have been applied in order to conceal the plagiarism.</p>
Culture	
32	<p>32.1. Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On museums and the</p>

	<p>museum fund of the Republic of Armenia""</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improving the legislation in the field of cultural heritage.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 3, 11, 16, 20 and 22 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On basics of cultural legislation", and point 2 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Elaboration of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On museums and the museum fund of the Republic of Armenia" is conditioned by the need to regulate relations pertaining to establishment, activities, termination of activities and accreditation of museums, as well as define the types, functions of museums, ensure the legislative grounds for forming a museum fund of the Republic, replenishing, recording, preserving it and security thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Laws of the Republic of Armenia on tangible and intangible cultural heritage have already been adopted ("On preservation and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments and historical environment", "On export and import of cultural property", "On archive keeping") which regulate certain spheres of our cultural heritage. But issues of the museum fund of the Republic of Armenia constituting a part of the cultural heritage, as well as use, disposal of each museum fund, establishment of museums (irrespective of the form of ownership) and accreditation thereof are not currently regulated. Currently, activities of museums of the system of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia are regulated by legal acts approved by orders of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia. 6 orders are being implemented.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The important mechanism for solution of the issues existing in the sector is the regulation of the legislative framework, which is possible upon adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On museums and the museum fund of the Republic of Armenia". Legal relations arising in the processes for preservation of the cultural heritage recorded in museums, including identification, documentation, research, application, restoration of cultural property, protection of the right of ownership over that property will be regulated.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of adoption of the draft, implementation of a unified state policy in the museum field, regulation of relations pertaining to establishment, activities, termination of activities of museums, definition of typology of museums, legal grounds for replenishment, record, preservations and protection of museum items will be ensured. The Law will prescribe the rights and duties of natural and legal persons, as well as competences of state bodies in that sector.</p>
	<p>32.2. Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On libraries and library science""</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improving the legislation in the field of cultural heritage.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 2 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is improvement of the proportionate development of the library sector, restoration of severed relations between community and state libraries, as well as completions of pan-Armenian catalogues, and the legislative framework regarding the replenishment, record, preservations and protection of library items.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>2 national and 10 marz libraries are operating under the subordination of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, which are mainly provided with relevant property and equipment, but modern technical capacities and serious challenges alert the libraries not to tread in place but implement changes therein in line with the time and develop them, as well as implement new programmes and new ideas. Today, the library sector develops extremely disproportionately in Armenia; on the one hand, we have an increase in modern electronic libraries being digitised, with wide capacities — with the possibility to use electronic databases of the written heritage presented to the world in Armenia letters, as well as about Armenia and the Armenians, on the other hand, we have community library with poor conditions, in a number reduced day by day — closed or dissolved, with book collections that are not replenished, updated. The book collections of community libraries are threatened as well. In approximate calculations, the word goes of up to 10 million library collections; they are subject to arbitrary treatment after the library is closed. The collections are not inventory-taken and recorded as prescribed.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The existing issues may be solved only by making changes in the legislative framework, by clearly defining a procedure for replenishment, record, preservation and protection of library items, digitisation of the written heritage funds, as well as completion of pan-Armenian catalogues.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Regulation of the legal framework will exclude the role of subjective treatment in preservation of library collections of community libraries and ensuring of their further normal progress, as well as in functions related to the completion of pan-Armenian catalogues.</p>
33	<p>33.1. Implementing education programmes in museums and libraries</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is popularisation of the Armenian culture, and ensuring a wide public participation in the cultural life.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 2 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" (establishment of museums and libraries as social-educational institutions, ensuring an environment for informal education and leisure for all layers and groups of society) of the Programme of the</p>

	<p>Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Modern museums libraries are not solely exhibitiv territories or territories for organising reading but scientific and educational institutions which, as a social and cultural system, exercise the function of ensuring cultural communication and transferring cultural heritage. Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to transfer the knowledge on cultural property to various layers of society, irrespective of age and social group, and exercising cultural education in museums and libraries.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, processes for re-valuation of the social role of museums and libraries and re-interpretation of their role are being implemented, which gives rise to the need to elaborate new models of society-museum/library relations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing general scientific and education programmes in museums and libraries is targeted at ensuring the cultural education of the society and implementing the scientific and educational potential of libraries. Increasing the effectiveness in the field of popularisation of museum and library collections and the attractiveness thereof as scientific and cultural institutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of adoption of implementation of programmes, increasing the realisation of the importance of preservation of the cultural heritage will be ensured, the recognition over museum and library activities will grow, the role and significance of museums and libraries in the life of the society will increase, and promotion of reading.</p>
	<p>33.2. Implementing actions aimed at public awareness-raising of monuments</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is popularisation of the Armenian culture, and ensuring a wide public participation in the cultural life.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 1 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Public awareness of monuments through diverse actions will significantly contribute to the creation of a monument-recognising citizen, which, in its turn, on the one hand, will decrease future abuses of cultural heritage, and on the other hand, will increase the sense of responsibility of citizens for own cultural and historical monuments. In essence, each step made for public awareness will bring us closer to forming a society realising the monument and its historical value. The aim of implementation of the Actions is improving issues of preservation of monuments, their proper valuation and public responsibility for monuments.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>Currently, co-ordinated activities for public awareness of monuments are missing, there are separate individual initiatives whereby an attempt to keep monuments and issues related thereto in the centre of certain attention is made. The issues are various — from scarce funds to acting not jointly, as a result whereof even good initiatives are sometimes occasional and not targeted, and no public awareness is ensured.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A part of the existing issues will be solved through public awareness-raising. Here clear mechanisms and targeted actions are needed, which will serve to the solution of those issues. Short advertising video clips, posters, etc., may be viewed as targeted actions. Flash mobs of famous people, new tourism routes may also be useful in this matter. But school education programmes, summer schools and camps near monuments, games and quizzes are more important and in-depth. It is highly desired that pupils are given the opportunity to somehow participate in the cleaning, excavation and restoration of monuments. The international practice may also be taken into account; for instance, in France, monuments are attached to some schools and pupils of those schools regularly visit, clean and take care of the relevant monuments. If we localise this practice and expanded it more, we can create the education programme titled “One school, one monument”. Other similar events may also be organised. There is no doubt that public awareness will not only be raised thereby in the upcoming years but also contribute to the popularisation of monuments.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action or Actions will allow having a more knowledgeable and monument-recognising generation in the future. The envisaged education programmes will leave their direct impact on the formation of the ken of the youth.</p> <p>Awareness-raising among the public will contribute to issues related to matters of preservation of monuments as well.</p>
	<p>33.3. Implementing international and republican festivals and competitions, creative projects, exhibitions in Armenia (including implementation of the festival "Zark Fest" (Yarkhushta) in Dashtadem Fortress)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is popularisation of the Armenian culture, and ensuring a wide public participation in the cultural life.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 1 of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to introduce the modern trends in the world culture, audio-visual and performing arts to the Armenian spectators, enhancing inter-cultural relations, exchange of experience and creative co-operations, as well as forming the public's taste in culture and raising it.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, various international cultural programmes, events, festivals are being implemented in Armenia, which have a great role in the development and internationalisation of the Armenian culture, and popularisation of the Armenian art and culture. But the factors of international recognition of the</p>

	<p>programmes, public attention and communication to wide layers, engagement of tourists, as well as funding of the programmes are not satisfying.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Ensuring the continuity and expansion of implementation of international projects, the process for membership of reputable international institutions, expansion of the geography of programmes conducted, engagement of world famous artists, implementation of new creative programmes with a high bar, full use of the potential of international projects in the process for development of cultural tourism, and accessibility of the implemented programmes for the wide layers of the society.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementing at least 50 events annually with state support.</p> <p>Popularising the Armenian culture and contemporary arts, meeting the spiritual needs of the people, forming a favourable environment for creative, talented individual artists, raising the recognisability of the historical and cultural environment.</p>
	<p>33.4. Activating the institute of art critics</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 7 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the institutional establishment of arts criticism in Armenia, in particular, positioning of speech, and formation of public opinion.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Arts criticism is an indivisible part of the culture, but criticism of contemporary art is in crisis in Armenia, and the implementation of this Action is aimed at studying and finding possible solutions for overcoming the critical situation, forming healthy creativity and studying the perception of contemporary art.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Supporting platforms for publishing critical articles and analyses in the sector of art. Promoting professional analysis and critical thinking in events and festivals implemented with state grants.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Promoting establishment of the institute of art critics, formation of healthy creativity, modernisation of art and creation of quality pieces, as well as increase of the level of perception of the spectators.</p>

<p>33.5. Implementing programmes for raising awareness of the intangible cultural heritage and education and cultural programmes in communities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is popularisation of the Armenian culture, and ensuring a wide public participation in the cultural life.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 (ensuring the continuity of preservation, study, use and popularisation of Armenian historical and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible)).</p> <p>The programme for raising awareness of the intangible cultural heritage in communities and cultural and education programme is implemented in 27 communities of 6 marzes of the Republic of Armenia — Kotayk (Yeghvard, Teghenik, Karashamb, Hatsavan, Geghadir communities), Tavush (Noyemberyan, Ayrum, Berdavan, Baghanis, Dovegh, Jujeva, Ltchkadzor, Ptghavan, Voskevan communities), Armavir (Hatsik, Myasnikyan, Khanjyan, Vanand, Yervandashat, Bagaran, Koghbavan, Artamet, Talvorik communities), Vayots Dzor (Khachik community), Ararat (Dvin, Jrahovit communities), Syunik (Tegh community), where 18 "Arar" Armenian Art Centers have been created. 14 local specialists teach traditional song and dance, national instruments, fine arts, rug making and carpet weaving, lace-making and embroidery, ceramics, artistic processing of stone, wood and metal, khachkar-making. 500 participants are engaged in the courses.</p> <p>The objective of the programme is ensuring the preservation, protection and dissemination of intangible cultural heritage in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, enrooting public care and respect for national intangible cultural heritage, ensuring application of intangible cultural heritage and transferring the intangible cultural heritage to generations.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The implementation of the programme is aimed at ensuring the effectiveness of processes in line with modern challenges of preservation of cultural heritage and targeted disposal of funds allocated for ensuring that task.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Expanding the programme for raising awareness of the intangible cultural heritage and education and cultural programme in communities, including new communities, increasing the number of beneficiaries included in the programme, which is targeted at de-centralisation of cultural services for vitalisation and proportionate development of the cultural life in marzes. Ensuring the preservation, protection and dissemination of intangible cultural heritage in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, enrooting public care and respect for national intangible cultural heritage, ensuring application of intangible cultural heritage and transferring the intangible cultural heritage to generations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the programme, participation of communities in the process for preservation, restoration and transfer of intangible cultural heritage is ensured. Marz cultural life is revitalised with the engagement of marz-residing specialists in activities, favourable conditions are created in terms</p>
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	<p>of recognisability of intangible cultural heritage, attaching importance to its place and role in the life of communities. The programme will expand the engagement of marz population in the preservation, dissemination, development and popularisation of intangible cultural heritage.</p> <p>As a result of the programme, samples of national culture created by students of the Center will have a significant place and role in the cultural life of the community, by forming the consolidated picture of local cultural peculiarities and contributing thereby to the development of cultural tourism.</p>
34	<p>33.6 Implementing subscription programme for schoolchildren</p> <p>1.Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is popularisation of the Armenian culture, and ensuring a wide public participation in the cultural life.</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the point of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" "establishment of museums and libraries as social-educational institutions, ensuring an environment for informal education and leisure for all layers and groups of society" of Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia". Each subsequent academic year, the subscription programme for schoolchildren provides all the schoolchildren with the opportunity to visit cultural institutions free-of-charge and the right to participate in the cultural life.</p> <p>Within the scope of the Programme, each pupil of the Republic of Armenia is allowed free admission to theatres, concert halls and museums once a year. Within the scope of the Programme, each pupil of the Republic of Armenia is allowed free admission to theatres, concert halls and museums once a year.</p> <p>The objective of the Programme is to create an opportunity to have acquaintance with the cultural events, establish a tradition to visit cultural institutions from an early stage, revitalise cultural institutions and create competitive conditions therefor promoting the ambition of professional growth.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The residents and especially schoolchildren of marz and especially rural communities visit cultural institutions less frequently, the reasons whereof are uneven distribution of cultural institutions, as well as insufficient social opportunities.</p> <p>There are no theatres, concert halls or theatres in a number of communities and even marzes, whereas intercommunity or intercity transportations are additional financial burden for parents. On the other hand, especially marz cultural institutions need new audience flows and creation of a competitive environment, which is provided with the introduction of a subscription system.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Improve the programme of subscription system for all schoolchildren with the possibility of triple admission to cultural institutions based on a unified ticket system, repertoire and social platform. The programme for introducing subscription system enables about 261 000 schoolchildren regardless of their social status, place of residence and accessibility to a cultural institution, to participate in a cultural event in their community or any other city. The Programme guarantees the minimum opportunity for schoolchildren to exercise their cultural right, concurrently providing the cultural institutions with new target</p>

<p>groups and competitive opportunities.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main outcomes of the Action are periodic visits of pupils cultural institutions, establishing traditions to make use of cultural institutions from an early age, developing taste in the schoolchildren circle, providing cultural knowledge and information, using modern technological means, in particular, revitalisation of marz cultural life at the expense of new audience flow, creating competitive environment and as a result thereof providing a higher-quality cultural product.</p> <p>34.1. Replenishing the database of intangible cultural heritage</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is digitisation of cultural heritage, expansion of use of modern information technologies.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 (ensuring the continuity of preservation, study, use and popularisation of Armenian historical and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible)). The website "Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Armenia" is available at the following link: www.int-heritage.am . The necessity for launching the website is conditioned by the fulfilment of the requirements of UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On intangible cultural heritage" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1173-N of 3 September 2010 "On the procedure for identification, documentation, preservation of intangible cultural property and exchanging information and approving the form of the certificate for intangible cultural heritage".</p> <p>The website "Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Armenia" is an information system of the intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Armenia, the aim whereof is ensuring comprehensive information on intangible cultural heritage, ensuring developments of the legal framework of the sector of intangible cultural heritage, international co-operation programmes, processes implemented with UNESCO, content of relevant lists, as well as submission of popular scientific materials of the sector, and dissemination of announcements on programmes envisaged.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Disseminating information on the sector of intangible cultural heritage and on implementation of programmes for preservation, protection, transfer and dissemination thereof, and popularisation of achievements in the sector.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The existence and active operation of the website "Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Armenia" are targeted at dissemination, co-ordination and classification of information on that heritage in the digital space, as well as increasing the recognisability, attachment of importance to the place and role of intangible cultural heritage among the society. The existence and active operation of the website "Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Armenia" ensure expansion of dissemination of information on the sector among the society, dissemination of information on programmes for preservation, protection</p>
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	<p>and transfer of heritage, bearers, news of the sector, local and international events.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The existence and active operation of the website "Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Armenia" will create an opportunity for the wide public to become familiar with the intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Armenia, programmes implemented with UNESCO and processes for preservation of registered intangible cultural heritage property. The structure and design, Russian and English translations of materials of the website, as well as existence of relevant link on social networks will essentially contribute to the increase of recognisability and appreciation of intangible cultural heritage by the public.</p>
	<p>34.2. Introducing an electronic service programme in libraries within the scope of the programme "KOHA" (electronic Union Catalogue of Armenian Libraries)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is digitisation of cultural heritage, expansion of use of modern information technologies.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 11 of the cultural sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The most important task of service of libraries of the Republic of Armenia is bringing provided services into compliance with modern requirements of readers and necessary service standards — registration, on-line order, inter-library loan, on-line consultation, availability of international scientific databases.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In Armenia, the "KOHA" system is introduced in the National Library of Armenia, the Fundamental [Scientific] Library of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and a few academic libraries. Localisation, armenification of the system, elaboration and implementation of methodology of use of modules have gone a path of 10 years. The system complies with the international ISO standards.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Introducing the "KOHA" system for electronic management of library processes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introduction of the "KOHA" system for electronic management of library processes will provide an opportunity to use a unified library card, increase the effectiveness and accuracy of the statistical database in accordance with the provisions of personal data protection.</p>
	<p>34.3. Digitising museum collections</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

<p>The main objective of the Action is digitisation of cultural heritage, expansion of use of modern information technologies.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 11 of the cultural sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Digitisation of museum collections and entering them into the database specially created for that purpose, on-line launch and continuous replenishment of the digitalised system will ensure the effective co-ordination of record, preservation, popularisation, and movement of immovable cultural property existing in state, marz, community and private cultural organisations and collections of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The database will provide real opportunities to consolidate, unify the entire cultural treasures of Armenia within one domain and present it to the world. At the same time, what is also extremely important, digitisation of the collections limits, to the extent possible, the direct physical interaction of specialists and researchers with the property, which will decrease the risks arising therefrom; in addition, an opportunity for their distant study will be created. The maximum efficiency rate of such a database is great in terms that it may also solve — within the domain of information held — multiple official issues (obtaining a complete picture of cultural heritage, their quick and easy use for various purposes and in any parameter and format, carrying out identification and authentication thereof, etc.).</p> <p>Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The "Electronic Database of Cultural Property (Armenian Treasures)" was created pursuant to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1058-N of 11 September 2014, the works whereof were envisaged according to the above-indicated Decision to be completed in 2020. In essence, a unified digitised system of museum items — a database was created upon the above-indicated legal act, which may never deemed to be complete. The database should be replenished continuously, according to the replenishment of museum collections.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The creation of the database is multi-phase, continuous and includes creation, testing and introduction of relevant programmes, as well as acquisition and installation of necessary hardware by organisations providing information, and receipt of that information therefrom. The preservation list of movable cultural property of Armenia will be completed, from which one may be informed, free-of-charge, about the place of preservation of the necessary item and obtain a general picture thereon instead of doing search on several tens of websites. It is beneficial both for visitors and in terms of ensuring the preservation of the complete information. Favourable conditions will be ensured for effectively controlling export and temporary export of movable cultural property, preventing illegal export of cultural property and preventing illegal transfer of the right of ownership thereon. Recording, checking the existence of the collections, identifying, restoring property and implementing other processes will be easier in the existence of the database. It will create an effective connection between the sectoral organisations and the abroad, and concurrently contribute to the popularisation of the objects of the organisations and the effective use of information thereon.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Upon the launch of the database of digitised collections, the entire cultural heritage of Armenia may be available to anyone in the near future through</p>

	<p>common channels. Within the scope of that information, anyone may become familiar with the complete picture of the cultural treasures and movable heritage of our country, and in case of a need to use it — to obtain the permissible data in the format defined on the collections or separate property of interest from the repository recording them.</p> <p>The database is available in Armenian and Russian. It is envisaged to submit the information placed in the database in English as well during the time, which will make not only the popularisation and use of the cultural treasures and heritage of Armenia for scientific and research purposes but also contribute to the development of cultural tourism. The recognisability of Armenia and the interest therein will increase.</p>
35	<p>35.1. The programme “Abandoned Libraries” for transferring Armenian written heritage preserved in Armenian educational and cultural centres established abroad, in libraries of community significance and individual libraries to Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is preservation and popularisation of written Armenian heritage in foreign states.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 1 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>In the recent years, the issue of abandoned libraries has arisen in the Diaspora, especially in the French-Armenian community and those of the Middle East countries. As a result of estrangement of communities, resettlement of Armenians to America, Canada and other European countries, tens of private and community significance and individual, family libraries were left abandoned, with an uncertain fate. It is envisaged to transfer the collections of those libraries to Armenia within the scope of the programme "Abandoned Libraries".</p> <p>Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The communities of France and the countries of the Middle East once used to be the most ancient and most richly-populated with Armenians. Following the Genocide, intellectuals having escaped with the skin of their teeth found shelter in France and the Middle East — Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, who very quickly undertook the activities for Armenian-like education, upbringing of the young generation. Multiple community significance libraries, educational and cultural centres were created, as well as activities for collecting individual libraries became widespread in a short time. In the 20-30s of the 20th century, the Diaspora-Armenian generation went and collected a great number of old publications, rare books, valuable collections, press, journals, periodicals. And a part of the libraries was inherited from parents. Having an Armenian book at home in the Diaspora connects the person to the homeland and his or her identity. As a result of the outflow of Armenians conditioned by generational change, integration into the foreign environment, quick estrangement in France, and in the Middle East — by the military and political situation existing in those countries during the years, multiple educational and cultural organisations were closed, and the library collections existing therein were left. The rich libraries carefully collected during years in families became a "burden" for the new generation, and the latter often apply to the diplomatic or church representatives of Armenia in order to get rid of them.</p> <p>Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The objectives of implementation of the programme are to establish a connection with persons having information on already famous abandoned libraries,</p>

	<p>search for and find the owners of private collections with an uncertain fate through Armenian organisations of the Diaspora. Drawing up lists of library collections and organise their transfer to Armenia via the diplomatic institutions of the Republic of Armenia in those countries.</p> <p>"National Library of Armenia" SNCO and ""Matenadaran" Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts Named after M. Mashtots" Foundation will also be engaged in the process.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>An opportunity will be created to save unique samples of movable cultural heritage abroad from loss, favourable conditions will be created for transferring the cultural heritage existing abroad to the homeland, the collections of "National Library of Armenia" SNCO, ""Matenadaran" Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts Named after M. Mashtots" Foundation and other cultural institutions of the Republic of Armenia will be replenished.</p>
	<p>35.2. Replenishing foreign libraries with literature on Armenian studies</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is preservation and popularisation of written Armenian heritage in foreign states.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 9 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>When studying the database of the urban, regional and university libraries of the majority of the European countries, the fact that the vast majority of works of Armenian or foreign authors existing in the funds, related to Armenia or the Armenians, are on the Armenian Genocide, and literature on Armenian studies, other sciences, cultural, publicly available and fiction literature was almost absent was recorded. It is necessary to replenish foreign libraries with similar literature, as a result whereof the fund of Armenian studies and having Armenian theme will increase in libraries abroad, international co-operation in the field of book dissemination will be ensured, foreign scientists dealing with the Caucasus region will be provided with the opportunity to make reference to literature on Armenian studies in their monographs, and Armenian literature, culture, and history will be popularised.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The absence or almost absence of information on historical Armenia for years has led to a situation where students of foreign higher education institutions and scientists are not able to find proper literature on our country in libraries. Instead, enemy countries spread false information on our country and the region, which may give rise to confusion in the circles of science. This Action is a pilot and modest attempt to fill the absence of that information.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, with the help of the Professional Board Examining Book Publishing Initiatives and the relevant scientific-professional institutions, is forming such a list of foreign language literature on Armenian studies, culture, and announces a tender for the publication thereof. Published books are stored in "National Library of Armenia" SNCO. Thereafter, foreign public libraries and those of higher education institutions are replenished with that literature with the assistance and mediation of postal delivery services, embassies and cultural</p>

	<p>attachés. The Ministry will expect the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, embassies of the Republic of Armenia in foreign countries, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, presence of achievements of our culture and science, as well as Armenian studies in all public significance libraries and educational institutions will be ensured, international co-operation in the field of book dissemination will be promoted, foreign scientists dealing with the Caucasus region will be provided with the opportunity to make reference to literature on Armenian studies in their monographs, the fund on Armenian studies will increase in libraries abroad, the Armenian literature, Armenian studies, culture, history will be popularised, and information on Armenia will become more accessible.</p>
36	<p>36.1. "Non-State Press Publication" programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to ensure a favourable environment for full expression and realisation of creative capacities.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 1 of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Exclusively literary, cultural printed and electronic periodicals receive the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia within the scope of the "Non-State Press Publication" programme. The programme is targeted at bringing literary, cultural events, issues, news to the wide masses of the public, as well as promoting strong professional say on various sectors of culture, art (literature, theatre studies, music studies, art studies, etc.). The objective of the programme is having specialised, professional media covering culture, art in the family of the mass media, contributing to the promotion of professional speech, promoting the development of literary genres of journalism, providing specialist of the sector, through providing honoraria, with an opportunity to live at the expense of their creative work and develop professional speech by bringing it to various layers of the society.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Nowadays, when events taking place in the sector of culture, art are mainly covered solely within the scope of the news genre, we rarely meet specialised-analytical articles, which do not contribute to the development of the cultural communication of the society. Literary and cultural events and creative programmes are left out of social life due to insufficient coverage. Besides, means of expression are limited for professional views.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Publishing literary and cultural press in the format of state support will regulate the creator-society relations, promote the recognisability and popularisation of bearers of the cultural and literary fields. On the other hand, a part of the amount allocated within the scope of the programme will be directed at providing honoraria, which, in its turn, also motivates remarkable specialists of the sector.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Expanding popularisation of information and analysis of information on the literary and cultural life via contextual, specialised press.</p>
	<p>36.2. "Support for the Popularisation of Literature, Literary Programmes and Participation in International Book Exhibitions" programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to ensure a favourable environment for full expression and realisation of creative capacities.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from points 8 and 9 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The "Support for the Popularisation of Literature, Literary Programmes and Participation in International Book Exhibitions" programme is necessary for promoting reading and ensuring the participation of our country in republican literary programmes and international book exhibitions targeted at popularising literature. Within the scope of this Action, Armenia has participated with a separate pavilion in Leipzig, Bologna, Tehran, Moscow, Frankfurt and other international exhibitions. Participation in such reputable exhibitions creates opportunities for co-operation between Armenian and foreign publishing houses and literary agents.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The projects implemented within the scope of the Action are tasked to bring together all representatives of the sector — writers, literary agents, the literary press, publishers and, of course, readers. In the recent years, great liveliness is observed in the sector of Armenian book publishing; publishing is gradually becoming as profitable in our country as we dreamt of years ago. Armenian literature is demanded in libraries and book stores; the very latter prove this reality. Republican and international programmes for the development of the sector are aimed at enhancing the relations between all the indicated representatives, making the information on the sector of literature more available, popularising modern Armenian literature, and, finally, promoting reading.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The solutions recommended in the sector that is within the scope of co-ordination of the programme are to create conditions for the reproduction and development of the creative potential of the society, popularise modern Armenian literature in Armenia and abroad, translate monumental samples of world literature into Armenian, ensure equal competition in the Armenian book publishing market, whereby promotion of development trends in various layers of the sector, attention to matters of copyright and related rights are conditioned, which are targeted at transferring the author-publisher-reader co-operation exclusively into the legal framework, ensuring the accessibility to complete and accurate information on Armenia in Diaspora communities, and proper participation of Armenia in international book exhibitions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The role of the Ministry in the programme is co-ordinating and regulating the sector. When elaborating and implementing the policy for the sector, the Ministry is guided by the conviction that the development of each unit of the sector is equally important. The outcome of this programme in the sector of</p>

	<p>book publishing is the equal development of all units of the literature field, preservation, development, dissemination and popularisation of the literary-cultural heritage via literary product, formation of civil society, creation of favourable conditions for international co-operation in the field of reproduction and development of the creative potential of the society and book dissemination. All this develops the sector of book publishing in Armenia and creates opportunities for the effective implementation of the grant programme "Armenian Literature in Translations" and, hence, popularisation of classic and modern Armenian literature.</p>
	<p>36.3. Supporting creative programmes in various areas of culture through an open competitive system of allocation of grants, as well as promoting debut creative programmes and experimental and innovative forms of art (including implementation of the festival "Zark Fest" (Yarkhushta))</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to ensure a favourable environment for full expression and realisation of creative capacities.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 1 of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to apply the competitive, fair and transparent principle, increase the quality and effectiveness of art in various sectors, promote experimental and innovative forms of art, as well as ensure equal starting conditions for creative, state, non-state organisations and individual artists in the sectors.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Grants allocated by the State for the purpose of supporting actions aimed at the development of modern art and cultural events within the scope of programmes for state support to art were distributed until 2019 through the procedure defined, which, however, may not ensure the transparency and competitive nature of the process, contains corruption risks, by having a negative impact on the effectiveness of distribution of state funds and the entire accountability process. Conditioned by the centralisation and administrative-imperative nature of rendering decisions, the process for distribution of grants brings about a number of issues, in particular, disproportionate development of various fields of art, absence of a competitive field for creative individuals, unions and cultural organisations, existence of unequal conditions in the processes for creation and sale of cultural products. It should also be indicated that the creative potential of the youth is the driving force for civilisational and cultural processes, and it is impossible to imagine the success and cultural progress of each society without the participation of the youth, and implementation of innovative creative programmes thereby. Youth, debut and innovative creative programmes are mainly marginal due to a number of negative factors rooted in the cultural life, including the hierarchic nature of culture and patronage, incomplete both in terms of the impact having on the cultural field and the support provided by the State. Currently, young artists face also a number of other challenges related to the insufficient activity of the education-labour market chain and absence of support guaranteed by the State.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A new procedure for provision of grants was introduced for 2019, whereby the entire process for provision of state funds was regulated. A principal role in the new procedure for provision of grants will be reserved to specially formed competition task forces, whereby professional opinion will be issued on each application received and, thus, they will have a determinant role in the process of distribution of grants, by ensuring the open-public nature and</p>

	<p>transparency of the whole process.</p> <p>For the purpose of developing the creative potential of the youth, it is necessary to implement programmes which will allow ensuring the smooth universal process of culture, continuing processes for ensuring equal and fair conditions for self-expression of creative persons, and promoting creative programmes and activities.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Ensuring equal starting conditions for the participation of individuals and organisations carrying out activities in the sector of culture, proportionate development of various fields of art, ensuring diversity of cultural events and a high bar of creativity, ensuring transparency of distribution of state funds, as well as preventing the outflow of young talents, ensuring smooth succession of generation in various sectors of culture, discovering and identifying innovative programmes, as well as new names in the cultural field, stimulating interest in culture among the youth, and diversifying the development of the Armenian culture.</p>
37	<p>37.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On establishing “Aghdzk” Natural-Historical Reserve, establishing a branch of “Aghdzk” Natural-Historical Reserve and making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 312-N of 7 March 2003” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is developing cultural tourism in Armenia and expanding the institutional infrastructures in the field of heritage.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point "e" of Article 8 of the Republic of Armenia "On preservation and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments and historical environment".</p> <p>Establishment of “Aghdzk” Natural-Historical Reserve is conditioned by the circumstance that the latter is included in the state list of monuments of history and culture of the Republic of Armenia as a monument of republican significance.</p> <p>The territory occupied by the monument is deemed to be state ownership, whereon the reserve will be established. Further preservation and operation of the Reserve-Museum will be implemented at the expense of the funds allocated to “Service for Protection of Historical Environment and Historical-Cultural Museum-Reserves” SNCO. Establishment of the Reserve fully complies with the requirements of point "e" of Article 8 and Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On preservation and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments and historical environment" as they are established around the historical environment and monuments.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The monuments are state ownership, and excavation works have been being carried out since 2015 at the expense of state funds. Establishment of historical-cultural reserves will be targeted at the formation of an attractive tourism environment in combination of all forms of tourism upon the basis of historical-</p>

	<p>cultural tourism, in particular, development of tourism in communities, restoration of local traditions, discovering the tourism potential, diversification of the tourism product, formation and proper presentation of new tourism routes in the international and domestic market, including via organisation of traditional celebrations and festivals.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establishment of historical-cultural reserves is targeted at increasing the effectiveness of activities for study and popularisation of historical, archaeological, architectural monuments, complexes, groups of monuments, the historical and natural-historical environment, other cultural property, as well as implementing a programme for development of economic and tourism infrastructures in communities via co-operation with international organisations and the private sector. Establishing historical-cultural reserves around the monuments of the reserve-museum, increasing the effectiveness in the field of use and popularisation of immovable monuments of history and culture, the attractiveness of the investment field and volumes of tourism.</p> <p>Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of adopting the Draft, proper preservation of the entire territory of the group of monuments, opportunity for full professional study and popularisation, engagement of reserves in tourism routes, as well as more effective use of state funding will be ensured. At the same time, establishment of the reserves will contribute to the development of tourism and increase in the number of tourists.</p>
	<p>37.2. Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On establishing “Capital Artashat” Historical-Cultural Reserve, establishing a branch of “Capital Artashat” Historical-Cultural Reserve and making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 312-N of 7 March 2003”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is developing cultural tourism in Armenia and expanding the institutional infrastructures in the field of heritage.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point "e" of Article 8 of the Republic of Armenia "On preservation and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments and historical environment".</p> <p>Establishment of “Capital Artashat” Natural-Historical Reserve is conditioned by the circumstance that the latter is included in the state list of monuments of history and culture of the Republic of Armenia as a monument of republican significance.</p> <p>The territory occupied by the monument is deemed to be state ownership, whereon the reserve will be established. Establishment of the reserves does not lead to additional financial liability. Their further preservation and operation of the Reserve-Museum will be implemented at the expense of the extra-budgetary funds of “Service for Protection of Historical Environment and Historical-Cultural Museum-Reserves” SNCO. The modern tourism industry is the largest, effective branch of the global economy and one of the most dynamically developing ones. The unprecedented paces of development of this profitable sector leave a direct impact on the proportional development of almost all branches of the economy. Armenia is a state having a rich tourism potential, but</p>

	<p>having an extremely modest place in the global tourism market.</p> <p>Based on the preservation of the monument, as well as for the purpose of provision of tourist flows in 2022, the exhibition entitled “The Secret of the Land. Artashat at the Crossroads of Cultures” was held, which enabled to reveal a significant collection having found form different layers of historical Artashat, therefore, it is most advisable to transform the monument into reserve-museum.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In compliance with the provisions of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 312-N of 7 March 2003 "On making an amendment to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 202 of 6 March 2002 and establishing a state non-commercial organisation", a unified policy with centralised management and supervision was envisaged to be implemented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the sector of preservation of monuments of history and culture of the Republic of Armenia. Submission of the Draft also aims at ensuring the unity of principles of preservation, scientific study, popularisation and use of the reserve (as in the case of the other ancient settlements of the Republic of Armenia), as well as creating more favourable conditions for the beneficiaries.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establishment of historical-cultural reserves is targeted at increasing the effectiveness of activities for study and popularisation of historical, archaeological, architectural monuments, complexes, groups of monuments, the historical and natural-historical environment, other cultural property, as well as implementing a programme for development of economic and tourism infrastructures in communities via co-operation with international organisations and the private sector. Establishing historical-cultural reserves around the monuments of the reserve-museum, increasing the effectiveness in the field of use and popularisation of immovable monuments of history and culture, the attractiveness of the investment field and volumes of tourism.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of adopting the Draft, reserves and reserve-museums will become effective cultural organisations for complex preservation and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proper preservation of the entire territory of the group of monuments, opportunity for full professional study and popularisation, engagement of the territory of the reserve in tourism routes, as well as more effective use of state funding will be ensured. Establishment of the reserves is targeted at increasing the effectiveness of activities for study and popularisation of immovable historical, archaeological, architectural monuments, complexes of monuments, groups of monuments, the historical and natural-historical environment, and other cultural property.
	<p>37.3 Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On establishing “Yereruyk Cathedral” Historical-Cultural Reserve, establishing a branch of “Yereruyk Cathedral” Historical-Cultural Reserve and making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 312-N of 7 March 2003”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

	<p>The main objective of the Action is developing cultural tourism in Armenia and expanding the institutional infrastructures in the field of cultural heritage.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point "e" of Article 8 of the Republic of Armenia "On preservation and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments and historical environment".</p> <p>Establishment of "Yereruyk Cathedral" Natural-Historical Reserve is conditioned by the circumstance that the latter is included in the state list of monuments of history and culture of the Republic of Armenia as a monument of republican significance.</p> <p>The territory occupied by the monument is deemed to be state ownership, whereon the reserve will be established.</p> <p>Establishment of the reserve does not lead to additional financial liability. Their further preservation and operation of the Reserve-Museum will be implemented at the expense of the extra-budgetary funds of "Service for Protection of Historical Environment and Historical-Cultural Museum-Reserves" SNCO. The modern tourism industry is the largest, effective branch of the global economy and one of the most dynamically developing ones. The unprecedented paces of development of this profitable sector leave a direct impact on the proportional development of almost all branches of the economy. Armenia is a state having a rich tourism potential, but having an extremely modest place in the global tourism market.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In compliance with the provisions of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 312-N of 7 March 2003 "On making an amendment to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 202 of 6 March 2002 and establishing a state non-commercial organisation", a unified policy with centralised management and supervision was envisaged to be implemented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the sector of preservation of monuments of history and culture of the Republic of Armenia. Submission of the Draft also aims at ensuring the unity of principles of preservation, scientific study, popularisation and use of the reserve (as in the case of the other ancient settlements of the Republic of Armenia), as well as creating more favourable conditions for the beneficiaries.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establishment of historical-cultural reserves is targeted at increasing the effectiveness of activities for study and popularisation of historical, archaeological, architectural monuments, complexes, groups of monuments, the historical and natural-historical environment, other cultural property, as well as implementing a programme for development of economic and tourism infrastructures in communities via co-operation with international organisations and the private sector. Establishing historical-cultural reserves around the monuments of the reserve-museum, increasing the effectiveness in the field of use and popularisation of immovable monuments of history and culture, the attractiveness of the investment field and volumes of tourism.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a result of adopting the Draft, reserves and reserve-museums will become effective cultural organisations for complex preservation and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
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	<p>- proper preservation of the entire territory of the group of monuments, opportunity for full professional study and popularisation, engagement of the territory of the reserve in tourism routes, as well as more effective use of state funding will be ensured. Establishment of the reserves is targeted at increasing the effectiveness of activities for study and popularisation of immovable historical, archaeological, architectural monuments, complexes of monuments, groups of monuments, the historical and natural-historical environment, and other cultural property.</p>
38	<p>38.1. Reviewing the Statute of "Scientific Research Centre of the Historical and Cultural Heritage" SNCO, structural change, replenishment with new positions, promotion of contacts thereof with international organisations, provision of direct grants, preparation of personnel in the field of restoration of archaeological findings with the involvement of foreign specialists</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is establishing a centre that will develop and implement the strategy for preservation, safeguarding, internationalisation of cultural heritage of Armenia, the Diaspora and Artsakh and co-ordinated dissemination of historical and legal informedness on the cultural heritage.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 11 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. Part 3 of Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state non-commercial organisations" serves as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>Establishing a centre elaborating and implementing policy will give an opportunity to ensure the submission of complete information on the status of preservation of immovable monuments of history and culture located in the territory of Armenia, the Diaspora and Artsakh, historical data, legal status thereof and related legal relations, raising the issues of location of cultural heritage in conflict zones and the security thereof in the wide circle of legal and natural persons, the issues of preservation of particularly most important monuments having a global role on the international platform, and looking for ways of envisaging and implementing necessary actions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To solve the issue, it is envisaged to review the Statute of "Scientific Research Centre of the Historical and Cultural Heritage" SNCO, make a structural change in the SNCO, replenish the SNCO with new staff positions, by promoting the relation with international institutions, discuss the matter of provision of direct grants with the engagement of the latter, carry out training of personnel in the sector of restoration of archaeological findings with the engagement of foreign specialists.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is projected to promote the professional potential of "Scientific Research Centre of the Historical and Cultural Heritage" SNCO, study of issues of preservation of cultural heritage of the Diaspora and Artsakh and identification of issues of preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the targeted Diaspora and Artsakh and dissemination of targeted information, including a new monument in the UNESCO World Heritage List, establishment of a school for restoration of monuments, and full use of the potential of the laboratory for restoration of archaeological items of the SNCO re-armed with the JICA programme</p>

39	<p>39.1.Expanding the programme "Family Librarian"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>1. The main objective of the Action is ensuring the inclusiveness of preservation of cultural heritage, and exercising the right to be in touch with culture for vulnerable groups of the society. The necessity for the Action derives from point 8 of the cultural heritage sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>Elderly people and persons with limited capabilities and capacities face multiple problems in Armenia. One of those problems is the inaccessibility of library service. Implementation of the programme "Family Librarian" in Shirak and Lori marz libraries was targeted at the solution thereof. The objective of the programme is ensuring library service at home for elderly people, persons with limited capabilities and capacities, due to which library becomes accessible to all layers of the society.</p> <p>A need has arisen to expand the programme, implement it in 8 state marz libraries in order to create accessible and equal conditions for elderly people, persons with limited capabilities and capacities, and including them in the social life.</p> <p>Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the programme "Family Library" is implemented in Shirak and Lori marz libraries, services more than 120 elderly people and persons with disabilities. A need has arisen to implement this programme in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Ararat, Gegharkunik, Kotayk, Syunik, Vayots Dzor and Tavush marz libraries as well, as there is a certain number of elderly people, persons with limited capabilities and capacities in all marzes, who need reading.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Currently, the facility conditions are not sufficiently adapted to service elderly people, persons with limited capabilities and capacities, in particular, those having movement limitations; the programme provides the librarian with the opportunity to visit the beneficiary and service with books at home. Ensuring equal conditions for elderly people, persons with limited capabilities and capacities.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Expansion of the programme will give an opportunity to provide library services at home to 650 elderly people, beneficiaries with limited capabilities and capacities of marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>39.2. Inclusive programmes for preservation of intangible cultural heritage</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring the inclusiveness of preservation of cultural heritage, and exercising the right to be in touch with culture for vulnerable groups of the society. The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.9 CULTURE" of the "2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — ensuring the continuity of preservation, study, use and popularisation of Armenian historical and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible). One of the directions preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of Armenia is the organisation of awareness campaigns, instruction courses, trainings in communities upon inclusive bases. It is envisaged to expand the geography of communities and the number of beneficiaries for the purpose of implementing preservation of intangible cultural heritage more effectively, expanding and reviving the participation of various groups of the society.</p> <p>The objective of the process is to ensure the effectiveness of further implementation of inclusive programmes for preservation of intangible cultural heritage and take more clear and certain steps in the programme processes of the sector of intangible cultural heritage, as well as for the implementation of the principles of inclusiveness in state programmes and those of non-governmental organisations, as well as preservation of community-based heritage.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, programmes for preservation and management of intangible cultural heritage in Armenia are implemented by various state, educational, cultural, non-governmental organisations and communities based on the principle of inclusiveness.</p> <p>The process is organised at through cultural grant competitions, in particular, taking into account vulnerable groups, persons with disabilities, refugees, immigrants, various age groups, women and youth engagement. Accessibility to communicate with cultural property and use relevant services is enshrined by UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and sub-point 4 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On intangible cultural heritage”.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the effectiveness and outcome indicators of implementation of the process, pilot programmes are being implemented in several communities of the Republic so far.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Valuation of inclusiveness and mutual connection for preservation of intangible cultural heritage among the society as a guarantee for the health, strengthening, well-being and sustainable development of the society, as well as a means for formation of self-esteem, self-respect of and mutual respect for various communities, groups and individuals.</p>
	<p>39.3. Organising targeted events for vulnerable groups of the society</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring the inclusiveness of preservation of cultural heritage, and exercising the right to be in touch with culture for vulnerable groups of the society. The necessity for the Action derives from point 6 of Section "Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363–A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The processes being implemented will be targeted at the full integration of the cultural life of vulnerable groups of the society, ensuring of conditions for</p>

	<p>their further creative development and promotion, creation of opportunities to self-express, as well as formation of an atmosphere of tolerance within the society.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The issue of discovering the creative potential of vulnerable groups of the society, their self-expression in various fields of art and engagement in cultural processes is one of the important conditions for the progress and cultural development of the society. So far, the main stress in the programmes implemented for the development of the art and cultural life was put on the processes for ensuring normal conditions for activities of cultural infrastructures, encouraging individuals creating in the field of art and promoting their activities. The issue of their self-expression, communication with the cultural life and full-fledged participation therein will be solved upon the implementation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of developing inclusive art, it is necessary to implement complex programmes which will allow ensuring the smooth process of universal inclusiveness of culture, continuing processes for ensuring equal and fair conditions for self-expression of creative persons, and promoting creative programmes and activities.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result, opportunities will be created for identifying and promoting the creative potential of vulnerable groups of the society, as well as their integration into the society through culture with targeted support of creative programmes of vulnerable groups and non-governmental organisations dealing with their issues will be ensured.</p>
40	<p>40.1. Forming knowledge and the resources of marketing, segmentation, targeting and positioning in sector-specific organisations, implementing training courses</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is introduction of modern systems for management of culture.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 1 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is increasing the effectiveness of activities of organisations, ensuring the level of financial autonomy thereof, promoting management and organisational capacities thereof.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the management of organisations (SNCOs) operating under the subordination of the Ministry is assessed as ineffective. Statutory issues of the organisations include a wide autonomy of activities, including in management and organisation systems, entrepreneurial activities, formation and saving of</p>

	<p>financial resources of the organisation, management, planning of ticket economies and in other matters.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Conducting a programme course for the purpose of marketing of sectoral organisations, targeting segmentation, positioning knowledge and formation of resources is recommended as a solution to the existing issues. The course will provide an opportunity for capacity-building of the organisations in the above-mentioned sectoral and professional matters.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Drawing development programmes for 20 SNCOs per year. Professional capacity-building of 60 employees of the SNCO. Targeted management of public funds, improvement of human resources and capacities, mutually beneficial partnership between the private and public sectors, introduction of modern management models.</p>
	<p>40.2. Fundraising capacity-building</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is introduction of modern systems for management of culture.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 2 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the Action is to provide participants with necessary knowledge and tools for creating a wise strategy for combining business and culture. During the conduct of the course, formats for collaboration of companies and the art world, successful factors and models for measuring effectiveness will be studied. Participants will acquire skills for elaborating a vision for fundraising strategy, as well as the public-private sector connection will be enhanced.</p> <p>Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Issues of development of culture, alternative funding of cultural organisations are in the centre of attention of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The inertial manner of management of state institutions is inherited in the sector of culture. Tools of public representativeness of state institutions, issues of attracting spectators and forming a stable, loyal audience need to be reviewed. State grants cover only a part of extremely necessary needs and expenses. This makes procurement of additional funds, reduction of dependence on state allocations urgent.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Conduct of the course "Cultural Fundraising", elaboration of a practical guide for fundraising with the participation of sectoral organisations and provision thereof to the SNCOs are recommended as a solution to the existing issues. The course will give an opportunity for capacity-building of the organisations for fundraising, engaging financial means from other sources not prohibited by law.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementing "Cultural Fundraising" courses with participation of 30 SNCOs per year. Elaborating a practical guide for fundraising. Developing fundraising capacities and mechanisms at cultural institutions.</p>
	<p>40.3. Implementing "Managerial Capacity-Building" courses</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is introduction of modern systems for management of culture.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 3 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is the professional improvement of the management personnel and familiarisation thereof to up-to-date management formats in the sector of culture.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the administrative-imperative practice, the reserved management practice secluded from the economy and modern cultural developments prevails in the management processes in the sector of culture, which, by being deemed to be a heritage from the Soviet era, greatly hinders the development of cultural organisations and facing modern challenges thereby.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to conduct special courses for managers, producers in the sector of culture, and executive bodies (directors) of state cultural organisations, with clear modules, combined with performance of practical and theoretical work, and mechanisms for assessment of programme and knowledge outcomes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementing "Managerial Capacity-Building" courses with the participation of 30 representatives of 18 SNCOs per year. Gaining experience by students studying in the profession of "Art Management" of creative universities in state institutions.</p> <p>The expected outcome from the "Managerial Capacity-Building" courses is to increase the effectiveness of work activities of producers and directors, enhance practical qualities, develop strategic thinking abilities thereof, and modernise the management system.</p>
41	<p>41.1. Promoting activities of self-employed/independent creators</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

	<p>The main objective of the Action is the public institutionalisation of self-employed/independent creators.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 8 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the need to improve the social status, regulate and enhance state-private creator relations. The objective of the Action is to expand co-operation, promote creative programmes, and form a favourable environment for creative, talented artists.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, financial and tax relations of self-employed creators/artists is uncertain, which limits the opportunities for activities thereof. In particular, self-employed/independent creators do not make use of the forms of social support provided by the State which are available to employees of state institutions, and issues of their social protection are not regulated.</p> <p>Self-employed work has its difficulties, indeed. The main difficulty is the uncertainty, uneven distribution of income per year, the need to conclude contracts with the employee, be well-aware of various legal issues, maintain accounting, marketing and perform other business functions.</p> <p>Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Clarification of their legal, socio-economic status, elaboration of a package of recommendations on making use of grants provided from the State Budget for independent creators are recommended upon the envisaged solutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Elaborating mechanisms for co-operation between the state institution and self-employed creators/artists. Implementing 3 Actions per year.</p> <p>Studying international practice in legislative regulations, submitting a recommendation.</p>
	<p>41.2. Producing films</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is the public institutionalisation of self-employed/independent creators.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 8 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021, and the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production (revised)" signed by the Republic of Armenia on 30 January 2017 and adopted on 18 September 2020 thereby. The objective of the Action is internationalisation of the Armenian film products and increase of the economic effectiveness in the sector of film production — expansion of mutually beneficial co-operation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>35 live-action and documentary films have been carried out from 2006 to the day via co-production, and 6 new film projects are currently in the pre-production and current stage. Various programmes for reforming the film sector are implemented in Armenia, which are aimed at promotion of international co-operation dialogue, but the mechanisms for dissemination of film production, formats of protection of copyright and related rights in compliance with the international standards, as well as reform of film education, state support and investment programmes in the sector are not regulated yet for the implementation of joint projects, positioning on international film platforms and ensuring the competitiveness of the Armenian film production.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In order to promote international co-operation, it is necessary to ensure the existence of joint film production contracts with foreign states, membership of international professional institutions, implement development and creative programmes, legal regulations necessary for enhancing inter-cultural relations, popularising film production and the Armenian film, as well as engage professional institutions for submitting recommendations in the sector of cinematography.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Developing and internationalising Armenian film production, including joint film production, integration into international film processes and expanding co-operation, creating platforms for exchange of experience, popularising and disseminating Armenian film production, ensuring the effectiveness of state funding of cinematography, engaging local and foreign investments.</p>
42	<p>42.1. Forming a public rating of a patron of culture, state encouraging of patronage in the information field</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is introduction and establishment of the institute of patronage of culture and promotion of mutually beneficial mechanisms aimed at the expansion of public-private partnership. The necessity for the Action derives from point 10 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need for establishment of the institute of patronage, enhancement of the social position and reputation of patrons as sponsored persons, and the importance of state encouragement of patronage. As a result of the Action, patronage of art and culture will increase, inflow of certain funds into the creative and cultural environment, revival of the cultural life, encouragement and promotion of creative activities will take place.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The institute of patronage in the sector of culture has widely spread in the world. Despite the positive and leading practice, patronage of culture has not formed an institutional level in Armenia yet. Processes related to patronage are mainly in the field of personal, individual relations, the system of corporate social responsibility is not developed. The system of mechanisms for raising the attractiveness of SNCOs is not developed.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Action recommends increasing the role of patronage of culture in the public life, contributing to the increase of the public rating of culture patronage and persons acting in that framework through signals sent to the public by the State, encouragement of patronage, and introduction of patronage mechanisms, as well as elaborating and publishing "Mekenas" yearbook.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Forming a mutually reliable public-private sector environment, increasing the attractiveness and financial autonomy of SNCOs, and expanding state programmes in the sector of culture. Elaborating and publishing "Mekenas" yearbook</p>
	<p>42.2. Co-operation with benefactors, free-of-charge provision of rehabilitation projects drawn up at the expense of state funds, professional consulting, signing of memoranda, provision of information for the patronage yearbook</p> <p>1.1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is introduction and establishment of the institute of patronage of culture and promotion of mutually beneficial mechanisms aimed at the expansion of public-private partnership. The necessity for the Action derives from point 4 of the cultural heritage sector and point 10 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021, part 2 of Article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>There are several damaged monuments, dilapidated-tumbled-down and bent monuments that are in an emergency condition, the processes for further preservation whereof may not be ensured due to the scarcity of state funds.</p> <p>Public-private partnership will create an opportunity to carry out restoration works of monuments with the individual support of benefactors and engagement of funds, and discharge the burden of financial allocations by the State for the purpose of reinforcement, repair, recovery of monuments and development of territories thereof.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Ensuring paths for co-operation with benefactors for performing restoration works for the purpose of further preservation of monuments existing in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, that are in an emergency and ruined condition, providing — free-of-charge, within that scope — restoration projects drawn up at the expense of state funds to the benefactor, establishment of a legal platform and signing of memoranda for the purpose of performing the works, providing — free-of-charge — professional consultation during restoration works, presenting the results of works with the support of the benefactor in the patronage yearbook.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the public-private partnership, further development of relations with the private sector in the field of preservation of monuments will be ensured, the burden of liabilities of state care will be discharged in the final result of restoration works of monuments, the number of monuments having a</p>

	restored and good environment will increase, an opportunity for the development of infrastructures in the area adjacent to the monuments, wide service of visitors, and development of tourism will be created, which will contribute to the popularisation of the monuments, which will promote the inclusion of beneficiaries, and new jobs will be created.
43	<p>43.1. Improving the property and logistics base of cultural institutions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is upgrading the logistics base in theatre and concert organisations.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 12 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by [need for] ensuring a high artistic level, implementing modern, competitive theatrical performances and music programmes, maintaining and developing the peculiarities of theatres.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current condition of the equipment reflects on the formation of the repertoire, quality service of spectators, ensuring of the quality of performances, as well as processes for engaging tourists. The existence of a sufficient logistics base is important for ensuring the normal activity of theatre and concert organisations, which will create conditions for increasing the quality of the creative work of the artistic and creative personnel and service of spectators. One of the most important components of logistics base is provision of the stage and hall with lighting and sound equipment. The theatre hall is the main place of interaction of spectators with high value works, the existence of sufficient technical means whereof will provide them with the opportunity to enjoy high-class performances of theatre and concert artists. The current logistics situation does not provide that opportunity as the equipment currently used is from the 80s of the previous century and is in the worst condition, spare parts, lamps and other items necessary for repair have been out of production for a long time. Besides, the existing technical means do not meet the modern requirements for theatre and concert hall, as a result whereof the quality of events held and the impression among the spectators suffer.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Comprehensive modernisation of the logistics base is necessary in order to create conditions for the development of activities in the theatre and concert sector. Almost all state cultural institutions, with some exceptions, need logistic re-arming, improvement. The lighting and sound equipment, furnishing of stages and halls, heating and security systems are in a worse conditions, and there is a great lack of musical instruments and stage costumes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Providing artistic furnishing and stage costumes for theatrical organisations within the scope of state grants. Replenishing logistics base of 3 state non-commercial organisations per year.</p> <p>Improving the property and logistics base of cultural institutions, ensuring highly valuable result (property) of art (light and sound equipment, musical</p>

	instruments, stage costumes, etc.).
44	<p>44.1. Promoting the co-operation between creative unions and state organisations, mitigating the property deficit, analysing, mapping the property resources and professional potential</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is mapping of the property resources of creative unions for the purpose of ensuring the full functioning of state collectives.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 13 of the contemporary art sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by promoting co-operation with creative unions and state collectives, and ensuring the normal activities of state organisations.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, around 9 cultural organisations not having a state status are functioning in Armenia, which do not have permanent platforms for activities, and are located in areas belonging to other institutions. Thus, the Armenian State Dance Ensemble functions in the National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet, the famous Komitas National Quartet conducts rehearsals in the Conservatory, "Barekamutyun" Armenian State Dance Troupe — in the basement floor of "Aram Khachaturian" Concert Hall, Armenian State Ensemble of Song and Dance after Tatul Altunyan creates in the unfavourable conditions of the Armenian Choir Company, one of the best theatres of Armenia — H. Malyan Film Actor Theatre is also deprived of a roof over its head. Organisations possessing attached property are overloaded: 5 creative groups function in the National Centre of Chamber Music, 4 groups — in the Armenian State Philharmonic Hall, and each of those groups, in essence, may be a separate structural unit.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Mapping territories necessary for the normal operation of state cultural organisations and ensuring permanent platforms, analysing the property resources of creative unions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Mapping the property resources of 5 creative unions and 1 company.</p>
45	<p>45.1. Implementing the creative education programme "Classroom + Classic"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is implementation of targeted cultural-educational programmes. The necessity for the Action derives from point 4 of the cultural education sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021, Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 18 November 2004</p>

	<p>"Concept Paper on Artistic Education" and Articles 7 and 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the fundamentals of cultural legislation".</p> <p>Due to the creative education programme "Classroom + Classic", perception of the theatre culture among students of high schools is put on qualitatively new bases. The objectives of the programme are: discovering the creative potential of the society and creating conditions for progress, ensuring the accessibility and universal inclusiveness of culture and arts, as well as applying new models for increasing the interest of the public in culture.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Education programmes implemented in Armenian state theatres are few in the case when the interest in the theatre art is great among children, the adolescents and the youth. There is a distorted, often primitive perception of theatre among the society, and the young generation as well. The art of actor is often perceived as parody, and theatre is bypassed as the peculiarities, complex and multi-layer nature of the social institution.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The programme "Classroom + Classic" provides the youth with the opportunity to become familiar with the peculiarities of theatre art, get advice and guidance from the best specialists in the sector, try own capacities in the theatrical field, watch performances, and have discussions. The programme is composed of lectures, scenic speech and actor master classes, creative work and, as a final result, a performance composed of separate etudes is made. The objective of the project is not only identification of the talented youth but also attractiveness of theatrical perception, future spectators, in the great sense — formation of the theatre market.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Due to the programme, pupils will be involved in the theatrical life not only as passive spectators, but will also actively participate in the creative process. At the same time, this will greatly increase the interest of pupils in the theatrical world and expand their knowledge and experience in this field. Participation in the programme will not only give pupils an opportunity to get acquainted and work with the best specialists in the field of theatre, but also to try their hand. As a result of direct work with directors, pupils will have a comprehensive perception of the profession of actors, which can also play an orienting role in the choice of profession. Qualitative change of understanding and perceptions of "Emotional Education" and live-action theatre and raising the public rating of the theatre. Ensuring informal education for pupils via cultural programmes and making them connected to artistic values is one of the fundamental issues of the theatrical education programme. Qualitative change in the ideas and perceptions of theatre through "Emotional Education" and live-action methods and increasing the public rating of theatre.</p>
	<p>45.2. Organising inclusive festivals, holding joint events with specialists of the sector of culture and artists</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is implementation of targeted cultural-educational programmes.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from point 1 of the cultural education sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p>

	<p>The processes being implemented will be targeted at the full integration of the cultural life of vulnerable groups of the society, ensuring of conditions for their further creative development and promotion, creation of opportunities to self-express, as well as formation of an atmosphere of tolerance within the society.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The issue of discovering the creative potential of vulnerable groups of the society, their self-expression in various fields of art and engagement in cultural processes is one of the important conditions for the progress and cultural development of the society. So far, the main stress in the programmes implemented for the development of the art and cultural life was put on the processes for ensuring normal conditions for activities of cultural infrastructures, encouraging individuals creating in the field of art and promoting their activities. The issues of their self-expression, communication with the cultural life and full-fledged participation therein will be solved upon the implementation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of developing inclusive art, it is necessary to implement complex programmes which will allow ensuring the smooth process of universal inclusiveness of culture, continuing processes for ensuring equal and fair conditions for self-expression of creative persons, and promoting creative programmes and activities.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Organising instruction of arts education and instruction of aesthetic upbringing for around 600-700 disabled and non-disabled children per year, as well as implementing 5 inclusive events.</p> <p>Reviewing the Statute of "Special Creative Centre for Children" SNCO, improving professional staff thereof, and implementing targeted programmes. Combination of inclusive activities of "National Centre of Aesthetics" CJSC and "Special Creative Centre for Children" SNCO and co-ordinated implementation thereof</p>
	<p>45.3. Implementing targeted educational programme "Sister Schools" of co-operation between schools of music, art and fine arts of Yerevan and marzes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is implementation of targeted cultural-educational programmes. The necessity for the Action derives from the points of the cultural education sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021, Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 18 November 2004 "Concept Paper on Artistic Education" and Articles 7 and 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the fundamentals of cultural legislation", and the requirement to ensure the 5.4.3 targeted result indicator of ACTION 5. MULTI-CHILD AND SECURED FAMILY of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2050".</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to solve issues of artistic education and artistic upbringing of the younger generation, is aimed</p>

	<p>at making national and world art and culture loved and accessible, revive the cultural life in marzes, and engage pupils in concert processes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Cultural education institutions mainly operate under community subordination in the Republic of Armenia, due to which the latter are freer in matters of disposing of own funds, planning activities and autonomy thereof. But activities in the indicated format give rise to a number of issues, of which are matter related to the unified state policy in the sector, activities of the general field of cultural education, supervision over the quality of teaching, ineffective personnel policy, introversion, difficulties in communication and transfer of leading practice, as well as communication difficulties.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementation of the indicated programmes will create relevant platforms for the development of creative abilities and self-expression of pupils, introduction of new methods and techniques of teaching, increasing the quality thereof, expansion of the knowledge of pedagogies through methodical pieces of advice, as well as analysis of peculiarities of teaching aimed at revealing abilities of gifted children. New platforms for organisation of the teaching process and joint implementation of creative work are formed via horizontal interactions of actors and beneficiaries of the sector of cultural education, parallel to traditional forms of performance of educational and methodical works.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Proportionate development of cultural education, increase in the quality of cultural-educational services, promotion of the opportunity of communication of the youth and children formed in different educational and social environments, ensuring the opportunity to unite around one objective and carry out activities jointly, equalisation of services provided in the field of extra-curricular upbringing, as well as ensuring the accessibility and affordability of cultural education, promotion of the creative potential of music, art and fine art schools operating in the Republic of Armenia, implementation of exchange of experience, joint concert programmes, establishment of permanently functioning links for methodical support to teaching, expansion of the knowledge of pedagogues through methodical pieces of advice, and analysis of peculiarities of teaching aimed at revealing abilities of gifted children.</p>
	<p>45.4. Programme "Your Art at School"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is implementation of targeted cultural-educational programmes.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the points of the cultural education sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021, Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 18 November 2004 "Concept Paper on Artistic Education" and Articles 7 and 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the fundamentals of cultural legislation".</p> <p>Since 2024, the programme is implemented within the scope of "11006 "Your art at school" educational and cultural" Action of the "1198 Cultural and aesthetical upbringing" programme of State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p>Within the scope of the cultural education programme "Your Art at School", pupils will get an opportunity to become familiar and have a direct interaction with modern Armenian artists. The programme is envisaged for students studying at schools of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The objective of the programme is:</p> <p>Ensuring the accessibility and universal inclusiveness of culture and arts: students of all schools of the Republic of Armenia may participate in the programme free of charge, the programme is conducted in all marzes of the Republic of Armenia, due to which the issue of inclusion of children studying at marz schools is solved. Applying new models for increasing interest of the public in culture: the programme is a unique bridge between the artist and the pupil, provides schoolchildren with the opportunity to have a direct acquaintance and interaction with artists, and ask questions interesting them.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, when the young generation mainly perceives the Internet as the main source of obtaining information, it is quite difficult to track the quality and value significance of the information received. Interaction with art and culture is very often replaced with events of solely leisure nature. The subject History of Art is missing from the compulsory school programmes, and class hours provided to art subjects are mainly limited to the first years of secondary school.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The cultural education programme "Your Art at School" is a series of meeting-lectures. It provides pupils with the opportunity to become familiar with modern artists, listen to their lectures, get advice and guidance from the best specialists in the sector. It is envisaged to have meetings with 50 artists representing various fields during the year. The meeting will take place in Yerevan and marz cities of the Republic of Armenia. Students from 450 schools in total will be able to participate in the programme.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is planned to include in the programme 60-65 educational institutions of Yerevan and 10 marzes of the Republic of Armenia per year.</p> <p>Increasing the recognisability of the life and activities of famous Armenian cultural figures and artists, promoting the professional orientation of pupils of general education schools.</p>
	<p>45.5. Implementing "Meknark" targeted talent development programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is implementation of targeted cultural-educational programmes.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the points of the cultural education sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The Action is aimed at the development, improvement and encouragement of 11-20 most talented young musician-performers (classic musical instruments —</p>

	<p>piano, violin, cello) per year for the purpose of further presenting Armenian performing art on the international arena.</p> <p>The Action will contribute to achieving indicator 16.4.2 of ACTION 16 titled “FAMOUS, RESPECTED AND HOSPITABLE ARMENIA” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2050".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The programmes and actions implemented in the sector of culture are aimed at the sustainable development of the sector and ensuring the accessibility of education and artistic upbringing and equalisation of educational institutions, which, however, does not ensure sufficient conditions for discovering gifted children and youth, their further improvement and targeted development. The existing system of cultural education is incomplete in the functions for discovering gifted and talented children, their professional development, organisation of their enhanced teaching and transfer of other abilities and skills necessary in the field of performing arts.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementation of the indicated programme will create relevant platforms, which will give an opportunity to ensure a new methodology of teaching, a special plan for improvement and development of capabilities, due to which beneficiaries will be provided with the opportunity to develop professional skills and talent in more favourable conditions, acquire stage experience, international interactions, participate in master classes of the best pedagogues and musicians in the world.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is planned to include in the programme 15 talented young musician-performers and 6 leading specialists per year in the professions of piano, violin and cello. Discovering young talented musician-performers, developing their professional skills, increasing public recognisability, ensuring participation thereof in national and international music competitions, festivals and other projects, creating full conditions for transferring the experience of the older generation.</p>
	<p>45.6. Implementing the programme "Elaboration and Publishing of Educational Methodological Literature for Music and Art Schools"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is implementation of targeted cultural-educational programmes.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from the points of the cultural education sector of Section "4.9 Culture" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" of 2021.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need for improvement of the quality of cultural education, elaboration — in line with modern requirements — and application of educational and methodological manuals, syllabi, student workbooks, textbooks, collections and guides, replenishment of school libraries, dissemination and popularisation of works and practical materials of classic and modern artists.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>203 music, art, fine art and dance art schools currently operating in Armenia have not been replenished with necessary literature and educational and methodological manuals for years, which, in turn, has a negative impact on the process of organising education. Teachers of cultural education institutions do not have the opportunity to become familiar with modern methods for instruction, and contemporary literature. Existing educational and methodological literature is mainly in Russian, and the lack of Armenian-language literature is one of the main issues.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Upon the implementation of the programme, the issue of publication and dissemination of Armenian-language literature is solved, and availability and accessibility of new professional textbooks, collections and literature are ensured.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is planned to elaborate and publish 7-8 educational manuals per year. Increasing the quality of education, ensuring access to educational and methodical literature, raising the awareness of professional circles of new methods of teaching in the field of fine arts education, applying unified standards, replenishing the book fund of music, art, dance and fine arts schools.</p>
46	<p>46.1. In 2022, holding Days of Culture of Russia in Armenia and those of Armenia in Russia dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The key objective of the Action is promotion of bilateral co-operation in the sector of culture with the Russian Federation, popularisation of Armenian culture and presentation of Russian culture to the Armenian spectators.</p> <p>For the purpose of bilateral cultural co-operation with foreign states, various elaborated formats exist, one of which is holding Days of Armenian Culture in foreign states and holding days of culture of other countries in Armenia. Holding days of culture derives from the bilateral documents signed. Co-operation in the sector of culture is implemented in accordance with the "Programme for 2019-2021 Co-operation Between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Events with various countries are implemented in the format of days of culture each year based on the principle of mutuality. The content and time limits of the events are determined as a result of negotiation with the diplomatic representations and the state body of the given country authorised in the field of culture. According to the provisions of the "Programme for 2019-2021 Co-operation Between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation", it is envisaged to hold the Days of Russia in Armenia in 2020, whereas Days of Armenia in Russia — in 2021. The Programmes have been postponed taking into account the complexities created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-war situation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Cancellation of the events envisaged for 2020-2021 is conditioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-war situation. The Russian side was</p>

	<p>recommended to declare 2022 as a year of cultural exchange between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation and hold the Days of Culture of Armenia in Russia in the spring of 2022 and hold the Days of Culture of Russia in Armenia in the autumn of 2022. The Days of Culture will be dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of Days of Culture, new cultural relations will be established and those having become traditional will be enhanced, the Armenian culture will be presented to the international community, and the quality and prestigious Russian cultural property will be presented to the Armenian spectators. New conditions will be created for developing the Armenian-Russian dialogue and co-operation in the sector of culture, which will also include the opportunity to implement joint programmes.</p>
	<p>46.2. Signing a 2022-2024 co-operation programme between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Promoting bilateral co-operation with the Russian Federation in the sector of culture and co-ordinating effective organisation of works.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the co-operation between Armenia and Russia in the sector of culture is regulated by the "Programme for 2019-2021 Co-operation Between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation", which expires on 31 December 2021.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account the circumstance that the "Programme for 2019-2021 Co-operation Between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation" expires on 31 December 2021, the Russian side was recommended to consider the opportunity to sign the "Programme for 2022- 2024 Co-operation Between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation" within the scope of the large-scale days of culture envisaged in 2022.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of signing of the "Programme for 2022- 2024 Co-operation Between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation", the co-operation between the two States in the sector of culture will be defined and regulated.</p>
Sport	
47	47.1. Establishing a higher master school

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is reforms aimed at high sports results. The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1 and 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Point "d.12" of point "d" of Article 7 of the Law "On physical culture and sport" serves as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>Opportunities for prospective athletes over 18 years old who are candidates for national teams of the Republic of Armenia, to continue trainings are created, joint trainings with the participation of the best athletes of the sport can be carried out.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Higher Master School functions in Gyumri only, which, however, implements functions of children's and youth sports school. An extreme necessity to establish a higher master school has arisen for solving the issues related to the organisation of the educational-sports process of prospective athletes over 18 who are deemed to be candidates for national teams of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account that pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On children's and youth sports", young boys and girls under 8 may train at children's and youth sports schools. Prospective athletes over 18 who are deemed to be candidates for national teams of the Republic of Armenia may continue their trainings only at higher master schools.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>An opportunity will be provided to conduct unified trainings replenished with the best athletes of the sports, ensure communication of actions of specialists participating in the preparation of the squads of the Republican teams in sports envisaged by the programme for the Olympic Games and organise the introduction of a centralised special training system for national teams in various sports.</p> <p>Prospective athletes over 18 who are deemed to be candidates for national teams of the Republic of Armenia may continue their trainings only under the supervision of high-class trainer-pedagogues.</p>
	<p>47.2. Elaborating complex steps aimed at the introduction and development of club sports</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is reforms aimed at high sports results. The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to ease the financial burden of the State; the objective is to develop sports clubs</p>

	<p>and promote club sport.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, private sports clubs, especially private swimming pools are developing in the Republic. The existing issues are those that private sports clubs of not all sports develop.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Creating conditions for establishing private sports clubs of various sports.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is expected from the implementation of the Action that the private sector will make financial investments for the development of club sport.</p> <p>In 2023-2024, 3-5 sports clubs will be opened per year.</p>
	<p>47.3. Adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On physical culture and sport'"</p> <p>47.4 Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On elaborating the standards for permanent monitoring and evaluation of activities of federations, sports clubs and other non-governmental sports organisations operating in the areas of physical culture and sport"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is reforms aimed at high sports results. The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action Studying the field of activities of federations, sports clubs and other non-governmental sports organisations operating in the areas of physical culture and sport, and creating a favourable field for activities.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The majority of sports included in the programme for the Olympic Games and some sports not included in the programme for the Olympic Games receive state support. 34 federations received state support each year in 2020 and 2021. Four multi-functional non-governmental sports organisations receive state support — "Hayastan" Non-Governmental Sports Organisation, "Dinamo" Non-Governmental Sports Organisation, "Labour Reserves" Non-Governmental Sports Organisation and "Sevan" Non-Governmental Sports Organisation of Armenia. Sports clubs operating in the Republic are not many. Engagement of child and youth students in trainings of physical culture and sport in order to form a sports reserve.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>It is necessary to elaborate a draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on elaborating the standards for permanent monitoring and evaluation of activities of federations, sports clubs and other non-governmental sports organisations operating in the areas of physical culture and sport.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Creating a favourable field for activities of federations, sports clubs and other non-governmental sports organisations operating in the areas of physical culture and sport.</p>
48	<p>48.1. Ensuring the participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022</p> <p>48.2. Ensuring the participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the Krakow 2023 European Games</p> <p>48.3. Ensuring the participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024</p> <p>48.4. Ensuring the participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina d'Ampezzo 2026</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Actions is ensuring the participation of athletes of the Republic of Armenia in prestigious international sports events, showing high sports results in international competition arenas, raising the sports reputation of the Republic of Armenia. The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 2 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Ensuring the participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in prestigious international sports events is a necessity as the Republic of Armenia will be presented the best way possible in large sports reviews and the national anthem of the Republic of Armenia will play in case of achieving a gold medal, and the national flag of the Republic of Armenia will be raised in case of becoming a winner of first to third prizes.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action aims at contributing to the achievement of indicator 16.2.1 of ACTION 16 titled "FAMOUS, RESPECTED AND HOSPITABLE ARMENIA" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2050".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>So far, the Republic of Armenia has won 14 gold, 18 silver and 19 bronze medals in the Olympic Games of various years. Armenia won two silver medals (1 in weightlifting and 1 in Greco-Roman wrestling sports) and two bronze medals (1 in boxing and 1 in sports gymnastics sports) at the 2021 Tokyo 32nd Summer Olympic Games. Armenia was represented by 37 athletes at the Minsk 2019 2nd European Games, who won 5 gold medals (1 in Greco-Roman wrestling, 2 in boxing, 1 in sambo, 1 in sports gymnastics), 3 silver medals (1 in Greco-Roman wrestling, 1 in sambo, 1 in sports gymnastics) and 3 bronze medals (2 in boxing, 1 in sambo). The existing issue is the ensuring of continuousness of participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in such large sports events.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>It is necessary to carry out the continuous funding of the participation of the sports delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the summer and winter Olympic Games and the European Games.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Participation in large prestigious sports events raises the sports reputation of the Republic of Armenia, promotes the increase of sports results, recording sports achievements, contributes to the development of physical culture and sport in the Republic of Armenia.</p>
49	<p>49.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On providing children's and youth sports schools, national sports federations and other non-governmental sports organisations of the Republic of Armenia with property"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is development of children's and youth sport.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraphs 1 and 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Sub-point "d.14" of point "d" of Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On physical culture and sport" serves as a ground for the Action.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the Action is providing sports institutions with modern sports equipment for preparing athletes of the sports reserve and high-class athletes, improving the logistic conditions thereof.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Not all sports institutions are equipped with necessary and modern sports goods and sports equipment. In 2016, 55 units of sports goods were provided to 36 organisations, in 2019 — 96 units of sports goods to 56 organisations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Acquiring and distributing necessary professional sports goods and sports equipment. Co-ordinating activities for acquisition and distribution of professional sports goods and sports equipment.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Meeting the sports goods demand of the majority of sports schools possible.</p>
	<p>49.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1428 'On approving the minimum criteria for conditions necessary for engaging in physical culture and sports by children and youth' of 1 September 2005" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is development of children's and youth sport.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and part 3 of Article 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On children's and youth sport".</p> <p>Sub-point "d.10" of point "d" of Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On physical culture and sport" serves as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>The objective is clarification of the minimum criteria for conditions of engaging in physical culture and sports by children and youth and bringing them into compliance with modern requirements.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Programmes for the physical development of children and youth, healthy lifestyle and preparation of sports reserve are implemented by the extra-curricular education institutions of sports orientation — children's and youth schools, sports and technical schools, and children's and youth sports schools of the Olympic reserve.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to elaborate and change the minimum criteria for conditions necessary for engaging in physical culture and sport by children and youth.</p> <p>In case of application of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1428 "On approving the minimum criteria for conditions necessary for engaging in physical culture and sports by children and adolescents" of 1 September 2005"</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Effective organisation of the educational and sports process in sports organisations.</p>
	<p>49.3. Construction and repair of structures of sports significance</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is development of children's and youth sport.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 1 of Section "4.8 Culture" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p>

	<p>Repaired, renovated and newly built sports institutions also provided with necessary conditions for the entry and exit of persons with disability.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation 174 sports schools of the Republic of Armenia have repair, renovation problems.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Construction (joint construction works, carrying out heating system, interior design, landscaping of the territory) and design of buildings (blocks) of sports facilities are recommended in 2022.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As many repaired and renovated sports school as possible in communities as well, by creating sufficient conditions for the development of sports.</p>
50	<p>50.1. Amateur road cycling tournament "Prime Minister's Cup of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring the continuity of implementation of programmes aimed at spreading mass sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle for different age groups of the population.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The Action will contribute to popularising the cycling sport and healthy lifestyle in the Republic, increasing the role of cycling sport, advocating the idea "Bicycle as a means for keeping the environment free from pollution" (Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On physical culture and sport").</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The coronavirus situation in the Republic in the recent two years has significantly decreased the level of physical activeness of the population. Currently, the daily life drives people to insufficient physical activeness, which, in turn, leads to dangerous consequences for health. Ensuring the further participation of the population in mass sports events is one of the most important directions of the social policy of the State and has a strategic significance.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The tournament is held in Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia (Shorzha-Sevan Lake Peninsula road section), in two age groups. Persons aged 18 and over, who wish, may participate, in 2 age groups.</p> <p>Organisation and holding of the tournament are carried out by the Commission approved by the Ministry and the Arbitration Commission, by co-operating with relevant federations and the Children and Youth Cycling Olympic School.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p>

	Popularisation of cycling and healthy lifestyle in the Republic, ensuring the participation of around 400 persons each year; increasing the number of children included in cycling, essential increase in upbringing a strong and healthy generation, and of the number of people doing physical culture and sport.
	<p>50.2. Amateur table tennis contests «Prime Minister’s Cup of the Republic of Armenia»</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring the continuity of implementation of programmes aimed at spreading mass sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle for different age groups of the population.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>Popularisation of table tennis sports in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, and increase of the role of local self-government bodies in the field of physical culture and sport will be ensured.</p> <p>The grounds for the implementation of the Action are sub-point “c” of Article 9 of Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-196 of 26 June 2001 “On physical culture and sport”, Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On children’s and youth sport”.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Loss of the traditions of game sports that were once loved is observed in the Republic in the recent years. Currently, the insufficient number of parks, zones for doing sport, roads for walking and riding a bicycle, yard sports complexes and under-equipment with sports goods thereof lead to the insufficient engagement of the population (middle-aged and older people) in regular physical culture trainings.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The competition will be held from 2021. Persons aged 18 and over, who wish, may participate, in 2 age groups. Works for preparation and holding of the tournament are co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. Organisation and holding of the tournament are carried out by the Commission approved by the Ministry and the Arbitration Commission, by co-operating with the Table Tennis Federation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Increase in the number of persons leading active leisure and healthy lifestyle in the life of the population is expected. Ensuring of the participation of 200 participants each year is expected.</p>
	<p>50.3. Amateur swimming contests “Prime Minister’s Cup of the Republic of Armenia”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

<p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring the continuity of implementation of programmes aimed at spreading mass sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle for different age groups of the population.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective is to enroot the idea of constantly doing physical exercises, and healthy lifestyle in the daily life of various age groups of the population.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The competitions will be held from 2021, in Gegharkunik Marz, in the beach area adjacent to Lake Sevan; the final venue will be determined by the organisers. The programme will contribute to engaging the population (middle-aged and older people) in regular swimming trainings, leading a healthy lifestyle. Works for preparation and holding of the competitions are co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. Organisation and holding of the competitions are carried out by the Commission approved by the Ministry and the Arbitration Commission, by co-operating with the Swimming Federation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Works for preparation and holding of the competitions are co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. Organisation and holding of the competitions are carried out by the Commission approved by the Ministry and the Arbitration Commission, by co-operating with the Swimming Federation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is expected to popularise the swimming sports in the Republic of Armenia, by ensuring the participation of 100 people each year.</p>	<p>50.4. Road running contests "Prime Minister's Cup of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is ensuring the continuity of implementation of programmes aimed at spreading mass sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle for different age groups of the population.</p> <p>The necessity for the Action derives from paragraph 3 of Section "4.8 SPORT" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is enrooting a healthy lifestyle among the population, and ensuring an increase in the number of the population doing running.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Works for preparation and holding of the competitions are co-ordinated by Armenia. The competitions will be held from 2021, in fulfilment of Assignment of</p>
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	<p>the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia №02/11.3/30554-2021 of 4 September 2021.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Works for preparation and holding of the competitions are co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. Organisation and holding of the competitions are carried out by the Commission approved by the Ministry and the Arbitration Commission, by co-operating with the Athletic Federation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Ensuring the participation of 5000 persons each year, and popularising athletics sports, healthy lifestyle in the Republic are expected.</p>
	<p>50.5. Services related to mass sports</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introducing physical culture and sport in the household of the population, upbringing of physically hardened youth to serve in the army (Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On physical culture and sport” (HO-196 of 26 June 2021), Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia № 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia”).</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The statistics prove that the Republic of Armenia is currently falling behind in regular physical activity from developing countries, where more than 40-50% of the population does physical culture; the indicator of physical inactivity (hypodynamia) among the population aged 15 and higher of the Republic of Armenia comprises 16,5%. The number of physically inactive men comprised 10,4 %, and that of women — 22,3%. Physical inactivity grows parallel with the age, and the highest indicator was recorded in 60-69-year-old (29,3%) and 70-year-old and higher age groups (42,6%).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Improving physical culture-health improving and mass works according to the residence through implementing sports and mass events in the marzes and communities of the Republic each year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Ensuring the participation of around 120000 persons each year in mass sports events is expected.</p> <p>50.6 Holding a road running tournament "Prime Minister's Cup of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the Programme is conditioned by ensuring the provisions of Article 5 of the Republic of Armenia "On physical culture and sports"(H-196 of 26 June 2001), 4.8 point of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia № 1363-A of 18 August 2021 "On the Programme of the</p>

	<p>Government of the Republic of Armenia", i.e., Government will promote, in the Republic of Armenia, enrooting healthy lifestyle and active rest among the population, strengthening health of the population through physical culture and sports, longevity, upbringing generations ready for homeland defence. The objective is to increase, among the schoolchildren, the interest of doing physical culture and sports, ensure permanent engagement in physical exercises, spread the idea of healthy lifestyle, popularise running and healthy lifestyle, strengthen health and physical development, ensure longevity.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Strengthening health, physical development of the schoolchildren, ensuring continuity of their physical education are one of the most important directions of the social policy of the state and of strategic significance thereof.</p> <p>The Programme is being implemented within the scope of the Action aimed at the popularisation of sport and contributes to the attaching importance of the role of physical culture and sports, enrooting the lead of healthy lifestyle in their household, upbringing physically trained young people.</p> <p>The issues are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insufficient engagement of schoolchildren in regular physical education classes; - insufficient propaganda of healthy lifestyle; - fail to lead healthy lifestyle; - ensure participation of pupils of general educational schools of all the marzes of the Republic of Armenia in mass sports events. <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The implementation of the Programme will contribute to the enhancement of interest toward and participation in the sport, enrooting of healthy lifestyle in the household.</p> <p>The road running tournament will be held on the road leading to "Parz Lake" in the city of Dilijan.</p> <p>The school teams of all marzes of the Republic who have desire and won and recognised as the best in the tournament at marz stages may participate. The procedure for and condition of holding of the road running tournament are decided by the tournament committee established by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Popularisation of running and healthy lifestyle, strengthening of health, ensuring propaganda of physical education and sports among the schoolchildren of the Republic, participation of around 500 schoolchildren in the final stage every year.</p>
Youth	

51	<p>51.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government "On approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia" On the youth"" 1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the legal grounds of the state youth policy.</p> <p>The following are a ground for adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the youth":</p> <p>1. Point 2 of Article 6 (Bodies provided for by the Constitution may, based on the Constitution and laws and with the purpose of ensuring the implementation thereof, be authorised by law to adopt secondary regulatory legal acts. Authorising norms must comply with the principle of legal certainty.) And point 12 of Article 86 (The main objectives of state policy in the economic, social and cultural spheres shall be as follows: promoting the participation of youth in political, economic and cultural life;) of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia;</p> <p>2. The point "forming a legal environment and ensuring necessary resources for discovering the potential of the youth, the comprehensive development, self-establishment and self-expression of the youth" of "4.7 Youth" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the point "forming a legal environment and ensuring necessary resources for discovering the potential of the youth, the comprehensive development, self-establishment and self-expression of the youth" of "4.7 Youth" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The youth have their active participation and investment in almost all fields of state development and social progress.</p> <p>Taking into account the key role of the youth in the establishment of our country, it is necessary to create a legal ground for the development of the potential of the youth, and conditions and opportunities for the establishment and enhancement of the youth.</p> <p>Currently, there is no law on the youth which would solve the legal issues arising in the processes of elaboration and implementation of state youth policies which may not be solved by other legal acts related to the sector, having lower legal force.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Existence of a law on the youth will contribute to the implementation of effective activities in the sector of youth, as well as realisation and development of the youth potential, creation of socio-economic, legal and political, spiritual and cultural conditions for promoting the participation of the youth to the benefit of the development and empowerment, enhancement of national security of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action Ensuring the legal regulation of the youth sector.</p>
	<p>51.2. Elaborating a guide and an education programme for youth work and preparing youth worker and submitting them to the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia for approval</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the legal grounds of the state youth policy.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “fostering establishment and development of youth centres in communities, encouraging informal education, wider recognition and dissemination of youth work and volunteering” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>During the recent three decades, youth work has become an important factor in the improvement of the social and community life in various countries in the world.</p> <p>Youth work is, in its nature, social activity targeted at discovery, realisation of the youth potential, active participation and inclusion in decisions rendered at various levels.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>After the independence of Armenia, a number of non-governmental organisations started implementing youth works. But a number of issues hinder the institutional establishment, recognition and dissemination of youth work in the Republic of Armenia, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● absence of an education programme for preparing a youth worker; ● absence of a guide on additional and ongoing training of youth workers; ● lack of awareness of youth work among the society, as a result of which the whole potential of youth work is not fully evaluated. Thus, the efforts of separate organisations and institutions in the development of youth work in Armenia are not sufficient and do not serve the discovery of youth potential and development and establishment of youth work. <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaboration of mechanisms for enhancement and establishment of youth work in the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the introduction and regulation of works of the organisational mechanism for promoting the participation of the youth, youth capacity-building, improvement of professional skills on the youth sector of people working in it, as well as promotion of recognisability of youth work.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Developing youth work and ensuring the recognisability of youth work in the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>51.3. Elaborating mechanisms for quality assurance of the state policy in the sector of youth and submitting them to the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia for approval</p> <p>Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

	<p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the legal grounds of the state youth policy.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “forming a legal environment and ensuring necessary resources for discovering the potential of the youth, the comprehensive development, self-establishment and self-expression of the youth” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of implementing state policy in the youth sector, as well as measuring the effectiveness of the state youth policy, a necessity to elaborate indicators for quality assurance of the state youth policy and mechanisms increasing the effectiveness of the state youth policy has arisen. Currently, there are no defined quality assurance indicators of the state youth policy, which makes it impossible to measure the effectiveness of the state youth policy.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Existence of quality assurance indicators/standards of state youth policy and mechanisms increasing the effectiveness of the state youth policy will contribute to the effective implementation of activities in the youth sector.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Increasing the level of effectiveness of implementation of the state youth policy.</p>
52	<p>52.1. Elaborating a guide for activities of the "youth environment" and approving by the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is forming a favourable environment for discovering the potential of the youth, comprehensive development, self-realisation and self-expression of the youth, and organising intellectual leisure in marz communities of Armenia.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “Fostering establishment and development of youth centres in communities, encouraging informal education, wider recognition and dissemination of youth work and volunteering” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, several and multi-functional centres are operating in the Republic of Armenia, many of which, among other functions, also perform youth work.</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the unity of implementation of the state youth policy, it is necessary that youth environments functioning and being newly created in the Republic of Armenia have a unified approach, by directing the processes and actions implemented in communities to the implementation and advancement of the state youth policy.</p> <p>Existence of a guide for activities of youth environments will ensure a unified approach in functioning youth environments.</p>

	<p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The guide for activities of youth environments will contribute to the formation of a unified approach of community youth environments, by directing the processes and actions implemented in communities to the implementation and advancement of the state youth policy.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementing a unified state youth policy through network co-operation.</p>
	<p>52.2. Supporting the formation of a "youth environment"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is forming a favourable environment for discovering the potential of the youth, comprehensive development, self-realisation and self-expression of the youth, and organising intellectual leisure in marz communities of Armenia.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “contributing to the discovery and development of the youth potential in their places of residence, and creating opportunities for organising the intellectual entertainment for the purpose of realising their interests” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, several and multi-functional centres are operating in the Republic of Armenia, many of which, among other functions, also perform youth work.</p> <p>The purpose of creating youth environments in marz communities of Armenia is to ensure a creative environment where youth work is being performed aimed at the discovery of the potential of the youth, create conditions necessary for the socialisation, self-realisation, engagement and development thereof, and ensure the highest participation of the youth in the public life and state building.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Youth environments will contribute to the implementation of an effective policy in the youth sector, creation of socio-economic, spiritual and cultural conditions for promoting youth participation, and formation of network co-operation between the centres.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Forming a youth environment.</p> <p>As a result of the Action, it is expected to establish 25 community youth environments/centre. The number of beneficiary-young people involved in each centre will comprise 400.</p>
53	53.1. Elaborating a methodology for the development of democratic and civic capacity among the youth and approving it by the order of the Minister of

<p>Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the participation of the youth in decision-making in all sectors of public life.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “forming a legal environment and ensuring necessary resources for discovering the potential of the youth, the comprehensive development, self-establishment and self-expression of the youth” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Ensuring the full participation of the wide public, including the youth in the decision-making process at local and national levels a key issue on the path to democratic unification in the Republic of Armenia. Issues in terms of participation in this sector are primarily manifested by the lack of democratic and civic capacity, knowledge on participatory democracy and participatory skills, incomplete awareness of participation mechanisms, procedures and platforms prescribed by legislation, and the imperative of increasing civic consciousness. Passiveness of low level of perception of agent of change in reforming both the future of own person and public phenomena and loading in terms of the issues, challenges and development agenda of own community, region, and country for forming and implementing an active civic stance also add to these issues among the youth. It will inevitably lead to formation of a value attitude toward the state as an institute creating public good and attaching importance to own participation in that process.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Use of the toolkit of participatory democracy at the local level by the youth is extremely important, which, on the one hand, will give an opportunity to enhance local democracy and, on the other hand, by manifesting at the most applied level, will enhance democratic values among the youth. On the other hand, it is envisaged to bring to life the mechanisms and platforms for participation of the youth in decision-making at the national level.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Approving the methodology for the development of democratic and civic capacity among the youth.</p>	<p>53.2. Elaborating a methodology for formation of self-organising youth groups in educational institutions and approving it by the order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the participation of the youth in decision-making in all sectors of public life.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “developing participatory capacities and skills of pupil and student councils, youth centres and youth organisations, as well as supporting youth organisations functioning at the local and national levels by stressing the development of civic, interpersonal, technological, creative and other skills of the marz youth” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of</p>
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	<p>Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Issues of increasing the motivation of the youth to be included in the management bodies of the state administration system, local self-governments bodies, educational and other institutions, and developing the capacities thereof are clearly noticed among the youth.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Use of the toolkit of participatory democracy at the local level by the youth is extremely important, which, on the one hand, will give an opportunity to enhance local democracy and, on the other hand, by manifesting at the most applied level, will enhance democratic values among the youth. On the other hand, it is envisaged to bring to life the mechanisms and platforms for participation of the youth in decision-making at the national level.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Approving the methodology for formation of self-organising youth groups in educational institutions.</p>
	<p>53.3. Organising, at the national level, public events aimed at raising awareness of democratic and civic participation, and corruption, by including the youth with disabilities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the participation of the youth in decision-making in all sectors of public life.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “expanding inclusiveness of the youth having disability” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Issues of increasing the motivation of the youth to be included in the management bodies of the state administration system, local self-governments bodies, educational and other institutions, and developing the capacities thereof are clearly noticed among the youth.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Organising public events aimed at raising the level of participation of participatory democratic civic participation at the local level by the youth is extremely important, which will enhance democratic values among the youth.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementing public events (presentation, seminar, workshop, program, flash mob, camp, etc.) at the national level. It is expected that on average, 150 young people will participate in the event annually.</p>

	<p>53.4.Capacity-building of the youth living in marzes, aimed at media literacy, digital literacy and cyber literacy</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the participation of the youth in decision-making in all sectors of public life.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “promoting critical thinking of the youth, development of research skills, initiative, knowledge of information technologies and Internet literacy thereof” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Ensuring the full participation of the wide public, including the youth in the decision-making process at local and national levels a key issue on the path to democratic unification in the Republic of Armenia. Issues in terms of participation in this sector are primarily manifested by the lack of democratic and civic capacity, knowledge on participatory democracy and participatory skills, incomplete awareness of participation mechanisms, procedures and platforms prescribed by legislation, and the imperative of increasing civic consciousness. Passiveness of low level of perception of agent of change in reforming both the future of own person and public phenomena and loading in terms of the issues, challenges and development agenda of own community, region, and country for forming and implementing an active civic stance also add to these issues among the youth. It will inevitably lead to formation of a value attitude toward the state as an institute creating public good and attaching importance to own participation in that process.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In this respect, development of civic and democratic capacity is key, which, in addition to the knowledge on democracy and state administration, assumes enhancement of confidence of the youth in own capacities in terms of transforming the situation and loading thereof in terms of the issues, challenges and development agenda of own community, region, and country for forming and implementing an active civic stance. In this context, promotion of volunteering as a way of enhancing activities and civic consciousness of the youth at the community level has an important significance.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Developing critical thinking, initiative, knowledge of information technologies and Internet literacy of the youth. Around 60 participants will participate in the programme per year.</p>
54	<p>54.1.Implementing the state target programme "Affordable Housing to Young Families"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the socio-economic problems and development of professional skills of the youth.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “Considering affordability of advance payment, monthly payment and interest rate as a stimulating tool for ensuring affordability of housing for young families” of “2.7 Urban development” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government</p>

	<p>of the Republic of Armenia. The programme is implemented pursuant to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 98-N of 29 January 2010 “On approving the target programme ‘Affordable Housing to Young Families’”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Economic decline, deepening of social inequality, certain transformation of the value system and the high level of joblessness in the first period of independence have worsened the living conditions of almost all layers of the population of Armenia, including the young generation. The level joblessness has also increased among the youth upon the shift to market economy. The number of emigrants has increased by the joblessness of the youth, an atmosphere of disbelief in their powers and capabilities has been created among the youth and, hence, it has a negative impact on the whole society.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The target programme “affordable Housing to Young Families” is aimed at the provision of state support to young families in need of improvement of housing conditions through the introduction of relevant legal, financial and organisational mechanisms.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Improving the housing conditions of young families. It is envisaged to increase the number of families by 700 on average.</p>
	<p>54.2. Organising courses — with informal educational toolkit — for increasing youth awareness of and engagement in professional training opportunities, professional orientation programmes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the socio-economic problems and development of professional skills of the youth.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “fostering establishment and development of youth centres in communities, encouraging informal education, wider recognition and dissemination of youth work and volunteering” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The crisis in the education system and the need for reforms in formal education, as well as the broken education-labour market communication, building capacities and skills, formation of soft skills among the youth make informal education programmes more important. Despite the circumstance that civil society organisations (CSOs) have implemented courses and been engaged in the development and dissemination of informal education for years, we can record that the achievements of informal education and impact on the education system in general, as well as the labour market have been extremely limited and non-continuous. Parallel to that, the authorised state administration body for education has also failed to undertake principal steps for the development of informal education. Informal education was considered only as a means for filling the gaps of formal education, by attempting to arm the youth entering the labour market with necessary capabilities and skills, support their multi-profile development and engagement in various sectors.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to consider informal education as a means for filling the gaps of formal education, by attempting to arm the youth entering the labour market with necessary capabilities and skills, support their multi-profile development and engagement in various sectors.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Professional capacity-building of the youth. At least 60 young people will participate in the action per year.</p>
	<p>54.3. Organising courses on increasing financial literacy of the youth, as well as on corruption</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the socio-economic problems and development of professional skills of the youth.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “promoting critical thinking of the youth, development of research skills, initiative, knowledge of information technologies and Internet literacy thereof” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and it will be implemented pursuant to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1208L of 22 July 2021 “On approving the Programme for Financial Education of the Republic of Armenia and the 2021-2025 Action Plan of the Programme for Financial Education of the Republic of Armenia”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of increasing knowledge of information technologies, Internet literacy, including also media literacy, several programmes and events have been implemented by the state, the private sector and the CSOs in the recent years. Currently, 64.7% of the population of Armenia is actively using the Internet, the majority whereof are the youth according to the Global Competitiveness Index published in 2019.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In order to make the situation better, increasing the knowledge of information technologies and Internet literacy is important, from the point of view of the effectiveness and long-term impact whereof it is important to target the youth based on the age peculiarities next to those engaged in formal education.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Professional capacity-building of the youth and improving the employment issues thereof. It is envisaged that around 60 young people will participate in the action per year.</p>
	<p>54.4. Supporting social entrepreneurship initiatives of the youth</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

	<p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the socio-economic problems and development of professional skills of the youth.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “supporting entrepreneurial capacity-building of the youth and founding of enterprises by the youth through reforming the legal framework for social entrepreneurship and introducing new state programmes for business support” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Researches show that in Armenia, especially in marzes, there are infinite unused opportunities for introduction and development of entrepreneurship, in particular, social entrepreneurship, in which young people with scarce opportunities may also be targeted. There is an immense potential for social entrepreneurship in marzes, for example, establishing guest houses, engaging in sustainable agriculture, garbage recycling, creating services for provision of food and accommodation to elderly people, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establishment of social entrepreneurship by the youth will contribute to the solution of their socio-economic problems.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action Improving employment issues of the youth.</p>
	<p>54.5. Ongoing dissemination of information about employment support programmes among the youth, the picture of demands of the labour market and supply of educational services</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the socio-economic problems and development of professional skills of the youth.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “supporting entrepreneurial capacity-building of the youth and founding of enterprises by the youth through reforming the legal framework for social entrepreneurship and introducing new state programmes for business support” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the labour force sample survey conducted in 2018 by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, labour force comprises 68% of the population in the Republic of Armenia, of which 57% is economically active. 20.4% of the economically active population is jobless. 45% of the jobless are under the age of 35. Armenia is on the lowest place among the EAEU countries with these indicators. Most economic activeness is observed among males, and they have a longer work record than females whose economic activeness results are quite lower than the average indicators.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Programmes for supporting employment among the youth will contribute to the solution of their socio-economic problems.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Improving employment issues of the youth.</p>
	<p>54.6. Dissemination of information among the youth about the existing opportunities for capacity-building for protection of population and disaster risk management</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is improvement of the socio-economic problems and development of professional skills of the youth.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “increasing the level of knowledge and skills of the youth in civil defence and acting in emergency situations” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Knowledge and skills for civil defence and acting in emergency situations are a serious pre-condition for creating a safe environment for living and creating.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In this respect, the most important thing is carrying out serious works especially in border communities for creating youth volunteering organisations by viewing it in the context of national security issues. It is very important to have young people who respond quickly to an emergency and are trained. In this regard, the organisation of annual thematic courses, especially among the community youth, is of primary importance.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Enhancing the necessary knowledge for civil defence and acting in emergency situations among the youth. The number of beneficiaries of the Programme will comprise around 50 participants per year.</p>
	<p>55.1. Supporting the participation of the youth and youth delegations of the Republic of Armenia in international festivals, forums, competitions, conferences, seminars, courses and other public events</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is development of pan-Armenian and international co-operation in the youth sector.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the point “ensuring exchange of experience in the youth sector between Armenia and the EU, EAEU, CIS and other regional partners, promoting partnership and implementation of joint programmes between youth organisations and institutions of Armenia and the Diaspora” of “4.7 Youth” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>International co-operation in the youth sector has been manifested both by establishing co-operation in the youth sector in inter-state relations in bilateral and multilateral formats and by funding and implementing programmes in the youth sector in Armenia by international inter-state and non-governmental organisations and agencies for international development of various countries.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Increase international co-operation in the youth sector through supporting the participation of the youth and youth delegations of the Republic of Armenia in international festivals, forums, competitions, conferences, seminars, courses and other public events.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Developing international co-operation in the youth sector. The number of beneficiaries of the action will comprise up to 20 young people per year.</p>
Diaspora	
56	<p>56.1. Establishing standards for the levels of proficiency in the Eastern Armenian language and elaborating mechanisms for their introduction and recognition</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is establishing a system for assessment of the knowledge of the Armenian language of foreign speakers.</p> <p>The necessity for preparing the standards is conditioned by the fact that currently there are no unified levels of and a system for assessment of proficiency in the Armenian language in the world, which makes the application of unified standards and model programmes and provision of a unified document in the Diaspora impossible.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are no unified standards of Armenian in the Diaspora, and each educational centre is guided by its own programme. Absence of official and internationally accepted documents also excludes the convert the mark in the Armenian language into credits in the educational system of the given country and the opportunity of a unified assessment and comparative analysis in the Diaspora.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating levels of proficiency in the Eastern Armenian language and elaborating a list of actions aimed at their introduction and recognition.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Standards for the levels of proficiency in the Eastern Armenian language, and the action plan for their introduction and recognition at the international level.</p> <p>56.2. Transferring the standards for the levels of proficiency in the Eastern Armenian language into the Western Armenian language, their recognition at the domestic and international level, adopting the Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On approving</p>

	<p>the levels of proficiency in the Armenian language”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The objective of recognition is the organisation of global/pan-European examinations in proficiency in the Armenian language and mutual recognition of one document in this entire education area. And as the Western Armenian language is taught and used in multiple communities and educational centres, the process for recognition must be carried out concurrently for the two literary branches of the Armenian language, by transferring the standards established in advance to the Western Armenian language, which is possible to be done with the help of linguists and university institutions functioning in the Diaspora.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The process for application of the standards is in the sector of international co-operation and requires implementation of the process for recognition through foreign universities and/or international institutions (for instance, the European Council). Currently, the Armenian language is not registered with any organisation, and no document having universal recognition may be issued by any university, even in case of organising local examinations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing actions for the introduction and recognition of the standards after their establishment</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Standards for the levels of proficiency in the Western Armenian language, Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, and a registration certificate</p>
57	<p>57.1. Organising training courses for Diaspora-Armenian teachers</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is enhancement of capacities of educational centres of the Diaspora.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from sub-point 8 of Section “1.4 Relations with the Diaspora” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Sub-point 5 of Article 5 and sub-point 7 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education” serve as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to ensure the unity and modernity of the education process in the Diaspora through the newly acquired knowledge and pedagogical capacities of teachers.</p> <p>The Action will contribute to ensuring the result indicator 11.4.1 of ACTION 11 titled “KNOWLEDGE-BASED (INTANGIBLE) ARMENIA” of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2050”.</p> <p>The Action has been being implemented since 2000 and based on several differentiated programmes which are updated by taking into account the</p>

	<p>sustainable and changing demands of the Diaspora. The demand for the Action is reflected also in the strategy for national security and is currently reflected in the strategy for development of education.</p> <p>This Action is the only specialised platform where teachers from various countries of the Diaspora meet, may exchange experience, establish contact with specialists from Armenia, and through which it is possible to increase the quality of teaching and succession of generation of the Diaspora teacher.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The process of teacher training needs ongoing transformation and a creative approach. Trainings in new directions will be organised.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating and implementing a teacher training programme through the grant procedure.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>In-person training of around 60 teachers per year in various directions, including new fields as well.</p>
	<p>57.2. Adopting an Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the assessment descriptors of teachers of the Diaspora"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is enhancement of capacities of educational centres of the Diaspora.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from sub-point 8 of Section "1.4 Relations with the Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Point 5 of part 1 of Article 5 and part 7 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On education" serve as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>The necessity for preparing the Order is conditioned by the fact that many teachers of the Diaspora work on a voluntary basis — free of charge. Besides, specialists in the relevant profession may be missing on the spot, due to which instruction is conducted by non-specialists. In such conditions, instruction may not be effective; hence, it is necessary to motivate the teacher and stimulate him or her through various events to achieve the minimum necessary level through self-education. For this, it is firstly necessary to define the minimum level necessary for conducting instruction at a Diaspora school.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there is no document which would define the assessment of teachers in the Diaspora.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating assessment descriptors for teachers of the Diaspora and approving them by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the</p>

	<p>Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p><u>Availability of a system for assessing the capacities of teachers of the Diaspora.</u></p>
	<p>57.3. Improving the educational and methodical base of educational centres of the Diaspora and elaborating new educational manuals</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is enhancement of capacities of educational centres of the Diaspora.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from sub-point 8 of Section “1.4 Relations with the Diaspora” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Sub-point 5 of Article 5 and sub-point 7 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education” serve as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>Multiple educational centres function in the Diaspora, where teaching is organised in accordance with the local conditions. It may differ not only by the language environment of the Eastern Armenian or the Western Armenian, but also various levels of proficiency in Armenian, age composition, and the local legislation on education. Hence, in order to provide support to the educational centres of the Diaspora, it is necessary to take into account all possible differences and create literature complying with the demands and conditions of the Diaspora.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the literature available on the market in Armenia is being acquired within the scope of the programme. But it is not sufficient for meeting the demands. Supply in Homeland Studies, Armenian History is especially scarce.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Supply in Homeland Studies, Armenian History is especially scarce, as well as equivalent literature for schools of South and Latin American countries.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Providing around 150000 units of textbooks, manuals and digitised resources in compliance with the educational needs and demand of the Diaspora</p>

	<p>57.4. Establishing a database of educational centres of the Diaspora</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is enhancement of capacities of educational centres of the Diaspora.</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from sub-point 8 of Section “1.4 Relations with the Diaspora” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Sub-point 5 of Article 5 and sub-point 7 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education” serve as a ground for implementing the Action.</p> <p>The envisaged Order is the first attempt to regulate receiving, maintaining accurate information and making it available. Previously, the record-registration of educational centres did not have a targeted nature, data often changed, but there was either no relevant information thereon or it was registered late. The establishment of the database will provide an opportunity to firstly have accurate data on the educational centres functioning in the Diaspora, as well as will serve as a basis for planning certain budget programmes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Previously, the record-registration of educational centres did not have a targeted nature, data often changed, but there was either no relevant information thereon or it was registered late.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The establishment of the database will provide an opportunity to firstly have accurate data on the educational centres functioning in the Diaspora, as well as will serve as a basis for planning certain budget programmes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Establishing an electronic platform for the management system of the database of educational centres of the Diaspora. Mapping the educational needs and demand, as well as capacities of educational centres of the Diaspora.</p>
58	<p>58.1. Adopting the draft Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport "On approving the Concept Paper on Formation and Development of the Co-operation Network University of Armenian Studies"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the quality of preparing personnel by implementing education programmes on Armenian Studies in foreign universities and introducing in a network form.</p> <p>The necessity for this Order is conditioned by the requirement to increase the effectiveness of the budget programme for teaching the Armenian language and other subjects of Armenian studies in foreign universities. It will regulate the inter-university relations between universities funded by the Republic of</p>

<p>Armenia and the higher education institutions of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Funding of foreign universities is carried out at the expense of the Budget of the Republic of Armenia for teaching the Armenian language and other subjects of Armenian studies. Funding of 2 additional universities per year is envisaged. But there is no relation between these universities, whereas together they may conduct conferences and other activities for Armenian studies.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Preparing an Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport "On approving the Concept Paper on Formation and Development of the Co-operation Network University of Armenian Studies".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementation of educational and scientific activities on the basis of partner universities/organisations — provision of academic mobility, formation of joint education programmes and organisation of teaching, implementation of scientific projects.</p>	<p>58.2. Ensuring the activities of centres of Armenian Studies in foreign universities in a network format</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is increasing the quality of preparing personnel by implementing education programmes on Armenian Studies in foreign universities and introducing in a network form. The necessity for the Order is conditioned by the requirement to increase the effectiveness of the budget programme for teaching the Armenian language and other subjects of Armenian studies in foreign universities. It will regulate the inter-university relations between universities funded by the Republic of Armenia and the higher education institutions of Armenia.</p> <p>The Action will contribute to ensuring the target result indicator 11.1.3 of ACTION 11 titled "KNOWLEDGE-BASED (INTANGIBLE) ARMENIA" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "ARMENIA TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY 2050".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Funding of foreign universities is carried out at the expense of the Budget of the Republic of Armenia for teaching the Armenian language and other subjects of Armenian studies. Funding of 2 additional universities per year is envisaged. But there is no relation between these universities, whereas together they may conduct conferences and other activities for Armenian studies.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Preparing an Order of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport "On approving the Concept Paper on Formation and Development of the Co-operation Network University of Armenian Studies".</p>
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	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Implementing education programmes on Armenian studies in foreign universities in a network format</p>
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	Ministry of Internal Affairs
N/N	RATIONALE
	Police
1.	<p>1. Establishing a Ministry of Internal Affairs based on the Police and the Migration Service.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the action</p> <p>The Action derives from paragraph 7 of point 5.4. of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the Action is creating a structural police model typical of a democratic society. The implementation of the Action is in line with Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 638-L of 23 April 2020 "On approving the Strategy on Police Reforms of the Republic of Armenia and the 2020-2022 Action Plan arising therefrom".</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issue in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>A necessary precondition for the proper functioning of the Police and for the complete solution of the tasks set before it is a structure that, as a result of the separation of powers, will allow the Police to fully direct resources to the implementation of its main functions.</p> <p>The current organisational and legal form of the Police causes difficulties in the course of co-ordination of subdivisions. Moreover, the system needs to exclude the existence of sub-divisions that perform duplicate functions, in particular, the existence of structural units that support various services, as well as those that carry out powers of departmental oversight.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a model of effective functioning of the Police, it is proposed to include it in the structure of the Ministry with a relevant independent status, defining the subordination of the Police to the Ministry, its structures and respectively, changing the structure of the Police and clarifying the functions. Some subdivisions of the current Police, the functions of which are mainly related to the provision of services to the public, will leave the structure of the Police and will be included within the structure of the Ministry.</p> <p>The practice of leading countries shows that migration services are best operated in the relevant internal affairs structures, taking into account the nature of migration functions and the types of services provided (arranging the provision of asylum to foreign nationals and stateless persons, ensuring the fulfilment of commitments prescribed by interstate readmission agreements, etc.).</p>

	<p>In this context, the change of the further status of the body performing functions of the Migration Service and the inclusion of those functions within the organisational and legal form of the new Ministry is also a necessity.</p> <p>By the Strategy of Police Reforms, the time period for the establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was set the 2nd semester of 2021, but the legislative package on the establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is circulated by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the is not yet included in the Agenda of the session of the 8th convocation of the National Assembly.</p> <p>Deriving from has been written above, the time period for the implementation of the Action was set the 3rd ten-day period of March 2023.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The structural model of the Ministry provides an opportunity to establish a body in the sector which will elaborate a policy and be accountable, will bear responsibility for the activities of the Police, the implementation of the unified policy of the sector and the budget performance. The new Civil Ministry, including the newly established Migration and Citizenship Service, will also ensure the elaboration and implementation of a unified policy of the sector.</p>
2.	<p>2. Reviewing the status of the Police troops, re-valuation of the issues and functions, defining a new organisational and legal form of the service of the Police troops.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the action</p> <p>The Action derives from paragraph 8 of point 5.4. of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirement of fulfilling the functions of the Police troops more effectively.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issue in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is a necessity for reviewing and transforming the status of the Police troops, tasks set before the Police troops need to be re-interpreted and modernised.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Conducting studies aimed at the re-valuation of the problems of the Police troops, submitting recommendations to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on the new organisational and legal form of the service based on those studies. The Action is envisaged also by the 2020-2022 Action Plan of the Strategy of Police Reforms approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 638-L of 23 April 2020; the time period of the action prescribed whereby is postponed taking into account the time period for the establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is envisaged to conduct studies and discussions aimed at establishing a Police Guard on the basis of the Police forces.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>It is envisaged to review the status of the Police troops and replenish them with a more professional and skilful staff trained in implementing functions of</p>

	<p>protection of public order and ensuring public security, involving other sub-divisions of the Police. Functions of the Police troops will be reviewed, particularly from the point of view of being in line with the problems of the Police. Functions of the troops enshrined by legislation will be clarified; moreover, an effective functional structure will be envisaged, the programmes for preparation and training of troops will fundamentally be transformed, a thought-out and active mechanism for selection, incentives and advancement of the personnel will be introduced and the harmonious co-operation of the police troops with the Armed Forces, the Rescue Service and other militarised forces during crises will be enhanced.</p>
3.	<p>3. Establishing sub-divisions of patrol service and operational management centre of the Police throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1. Necessity for (objective of) the action</p> <p>The Action derives from paragraphs 2 and 3 of point 5.4. of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The establishment of sub-divisions of patrol service and operational management centre of the Police throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia aims to — based on the successful example of the City of Yerevan — introduce a new and modern type of foreign service throughout the Republic — Patrol Service, which, being equipped with the latest technologies, will provide new quality service to citizens. It will be manifested by more effective protection of the rights and legal interests of the citizens, rapid (operative) response to offences and publicly dangerous cases, organisation of the traffic, creation of a modern digital integrated system for collecting the reports on crimes and accidents, more operative management of police forces and means, effective prevention of offences, especially those against property and (or) crimes committed in public places. It is envisaged to launch a specialised water patrol unit within the composition of the Gegharkunik Marz Patrol Service from September 2023, which will provide permanent patrol service in the area of Lake Sevan and on foot in the coastal area using water equipment. It is envisaged to equip the Patrol Service with female officers, thereby contributing to gender balance. In order to achieve that objective, it is envisaged to start the admission process (acceptance of applications, verification, discussions, etc.) in October 2023, and to complete the 5-month training on the 3rd 10 days of September 2024.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issue in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, the Patrol (Patrol-Guard and Road Patrol) Services of the Police do not have sufficient authorities and technical equipment for preventing the offences more effectively.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A new patrol sub-division (service) is recommended to establish throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia for the prevention of crimes and other offences more operatively and effectively. In parallel with the establishment of each sub-division of the patrol service in a marz, also an Operational management centre will be operated in the given marz, which will be a centre for receiving the alarms from citizens and will provide consulting in mere minutes, and, where necessary, it will bring the patrol squad, ensuring provision of support of police officers to persons in a difficult situation in a short period of time.</p>

	<p>First of all, the implementation of the Action presumes establishment of an infrastructure of the Patrol Service of the Police — an operational management centre, technical re-equipment, modernisation of the radio communication system, acquisition and equipment of patrol vehicles. As a result of establishment of the Operational management centre, effective management of the Police troops and means will be ensured particularly through the creation of a modern system for the collection of reports on the crimes and accidents. Capacities of the Operational management centre will also allow the application of relevant software tools for criminological analysis and forecasting of cases of crime, which will also contribute to the increase of the effectiveness of prevention (early prevention) of crimes.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The establishment of the new Patrol Service throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to more effective protection of the rights and legal interests of the citizens, rapid (operative) response to the offences and publicly dangerous cases, prevention of offences, especially those against property and (or) crimes committed in public places, organisation of traffic.</p> <p>The newly created water patrol unit will provide the service on beaches and recreation areas, providing public order protection, will promptly respond to offences and accidents, carry out prevention, detection, etc. of illegal hunting and fishing cases. Gender balance in the given sector will be ensured by replenishing the patrol service with female officers,</p>
4.	<p>4. Improving the remuneration and social guarantees of the Police officers.</p> <p>1. Necessity for (objective of) the action</p> <p>The Action derives from paragraph 5 of point 5.4. of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, according to which it is necessary to define a decent amount of remuneration and additional social security guarantees for police officers.</p> <p>In order to achieve that objective, it is envisaged to introduce the system of voluntary certification of police officers stipulating salary increases in the Police of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issue in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The remuneration of Police officers is very low compared to the remuneration of servants of other services. It is necessary to increase the attractiveness of the service in the Police, the motivation of the Police officers, the efficiency of their activities, as well as to provide guarantees to protect the Police officers from corruption as much as possible.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Salaries of the officers of the newly formed Patrol Service are 30-50% higher than the salaries existing in the system. In 2024-2026, it is envisaged to increase the amount of remuneration of police officers through voluntary certification. Service in the police will become more attractive.</p>

	<p>Voluntarily certified police officers will receive higher salaries, and possible corruption risks will be reduced.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Decent remuneration amount will be set for the Police officers,</p>
5.	<p>5. Increasing the level of technical equipment of the Police</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The Action derives from paragraph 6 of point 5.4. and point 6.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The objective of the Action is creating a new quality for ensuring public safety through transformation of the police who resist the modern challenges, have integrity, are specialised and technically equipped.</p> <p>By developing the criminal forensic potential of the Police, studying the leading practices in the fight against crime and increasing the level of technical equipment, an opportunity will be provided for ensuring higher rates of detection of crimes, as well as increasing the effectiveness of crime prevention work.</p> <p>As a result of the installation of queuing equipment in the more overloaded sub-divisions of the Passport and Visa Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia, servicing of citizens will be organised more effectively, at the same time it will contribute to the reduction of corruption risks, as in case of absence of such equipment the opportunity to be served earlier contains corruption risks.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Technical means currently available in the Criminal Forensics Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia do not allow to organise the expert examinations quickly and effectively.</p> <p>However, the absence of queuing equipment in the more overloaded sub-divisions of the Passport and Visa Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia affects the quality of services being provided by the state to the citizens.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For organising the criminal forensic activities more effectively by the study of the leading practice in the fight against crime, it is planned to acquire the following equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "EVOFINDER" Automated Ballistic Identification system <p>For the purpose of carrying out the process of comparison and identification of forensic ballistic examinations, especially shot bullet cartridges and bullets more quickly and effectively, it is necessary to introduce a modern automated ballistic identification system in the Criminal Forensic Department.</p> <p>In the given field VOFINDER automated ballistic identification system is among the leaders. It is produced in Germany, introduced in almost all countries of</p>

Europe /Germany, France, Austria, etc./, as well as in the Special Services (FBI, Pentagon) and in several states of the USA. The system is singled out by the high-quality scanning equipment that work in 3D format, ensure the high quality of the received images, as well as ensure the maximum speed of object /cartridge, bullet/ input — about 2-3 minutes for scanning each cartridge or bullet.

VOFINDER automated ballistic identification system has wide international recognition, high efficiency rating and enjoys a great reputation in its field.

The analysis also revealed that the only and exclusive supplier of the VOFINDER automated ballistic identification system is ScannBI Technology Europe GmbH Company. Announcing the above-written, the Criminal Forensic Department expresses its positive opinion especially on the acquisition and introduction of the VOFINDER automated ballistic identification system, as it stands out among such systems with its price-quality-effectiveness ratio and is the most optimal option.

- **Mass-selective detector of "Thermo fisher scientific, MS ISQ 7000" model, autosampler with 100-200 places and nitrogen generator of the same brand to connect to the "GC1310" gas chromatograph, a device intended for direct import of the substances of mass-selective detector.**

In 2014 the Police of the Republic of Armenia acquired also one gas chromatograph of "TRACE 1310" model with ignition detector of "Thermo fisher scientific" brand, which is possible to modernise, also attach to it a mass-selective detector of "MS ISQ 7000" model of "Thermo fisher scientific " brand. As a result of modernisation of the mentioned device, by saving sufficient financial means, the 2nd mass-selective detector will be acquired, with another tower, which will provide an opportunity to apply additional researches in other conditions. Besides, the mass-selective detector of the previous "DSQ-2" model is already physically and morally depreciated and it is time to think about obtaining a new mass-selective detector of "MS ISQ 7000" model. Target materials separated by the preparative method, which are not subject to gas chromatography, for the examination by the mass-selective detector.

- **Device "VSC8000" of Foster+Freemanbrand**

Verifies fake banknotes and fake documents in IR and UV spectra.

- **PC-CRASH**

3D modelling of the collision of vehicles. Modelling of motion of passengers in the vehicles. Modelling of the collision of vehicles and other objects for using in calculations.

During one modelling 1 to 32 vehicles can be modelled. Calculation of energy damage equivalent to deformation by using HTSH database Teaches to distinguish braking force between vehicle axles. Modelling of motion of vehicles with ABS and ESP systems. Ability to depict up to 5 positions by the system of optimisation of the vehicles and the traces left by their wheels. Automated identification — as a result of contact of vehicles with each other, as well as with other objects. Automated calculation of motion after the collision of the vehicles and other objects. Comparing the height of damages from the position of the rear view mirror of the vehicles.

- **Preparatory (preparative) liquid chromatograph with a UV detector.**

The equipment is intended for the combined operation, during which materials detected as a result of liquid chromatography should be separated by the given device, as clear materials, after which they can be examined through other methods of chemical research.

- **Liquid filtration device with a vacuum pump**

Liquid filtration device with a vacuum pump is necessary for the liquid chromatographs described above, in particular for the preparative chromatograph, as the mentioned device consumes a large amount of super-clean solvents during its operation, which are expensive. For the purpose of reducing the expenses for acquiring chemical solvents, it is expedient to acquire the mentioned device for cleaning chemical solvents.

- **A car of "Sobol" or "Gazelle" mark (all-wheel drive: intended for 5 to 7 persons).**

13 items of special equipment intended for the inspection of the scene of the accident were received from the People's Republic of China, as assistance. The mentioned special equipment is placed in special bags, like suitcases, designed for them, which are large in size, are not comfortable in terms of transportation to the scene of the accident and always entail certain difficulties.

There is no appropriate means of transport in the CF Department, in order to all the above-mentioned special equipment, together with their suitcases-like bags, can be operatively transported to the scene of the accident where necessary.

- **Liquid chromatograph with DAD detector, autosampler and thermostat**

The mentioned device will increase the effectiveness of the work of the chemical laboratory of the Special Investigation Department of the Criminal Forensic Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia, in particular, the mentioned liquid chromatograph will give an opportunity to examine and separate as a sample all the materials that cannot be examined as a result of gas chromatography, by the way, there are many such materials. These devices become targets for the detection of explosive remnants following an explosion and for a number of other cases.

- **Drone**

During the expert examinations, in particular, forensic-technical, forensic-ballistic, forensic-trace-evidence and forensic-commodity, carried out in the Criminal Forensic Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia, there is often a need to fix the place, objects, at different heights. Quite often, during the conduct of a number of expert examinations, when it is not possible to fix the place and objects from a certain height, the object makes it difficult to perceive the conclusion, its comprehensibility decreases, and in some cases, in the absence of this, the conclusion period is extended.

- **Decelerometer**

Decelerometer is a device for measuring deceleration and other parameters of a vehicle during braking.

For the purpose of conducting computer-technical expert examinations in the Police, acquisition of the necessary technical equipment and provision of software.

The implementation of computer-technical researches and expert examinations will ensure the criminal forensic guidance of operative-investigative

	<p>measures aimed at detecting crimes, providing a scientifically substantiated reliable evidence base.</p> <p>Having this type of expert examination in the Police of the Republic of Armenia, we will be able to solve the following important problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to detect and preserve data or information of probative value, providing it to the body of preliminary investigation in future; - to discover facts that are the basis for initiating a criminal case; - to restore the destroyed information, which will enable operatively (by hot tracks) revealing the committed crimes; - to identify types of crime where the existence of digital evidence is a priority; - to provide assistance to a number of police departments in collecting and maintaining evidence. <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>By developing the criminal forensic potential of the Police, particularly by increasing the level of technical equipment, an opportunity will be provided for ensuring higher rates of detection of crimes, as well as increasing the effectiveness of crime prevention work.</p> <p>As a result of the installation of queuing equipment in the more overloaded sub-divisions of the Passport and Visa Department of the Police of the Republic of Armenia, the quality of servicing of citizens will improve.</p>
6.	<p>6. Improving the educational environment of the Police, identifying the needs for continuous professional training in different sub-divisions of the Police and reviewing the vocational programmes of training in the result thereof.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The Action derives from paragraph 4 of point 5.4. of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The Action is conditioned by the Police reforms, in particular, by the need for development of theoretical, tactical knowledge and professional skills of the police officers, replenishment of the police sub-divisions with staff trained in qualitatively new and advanced educational programs.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The objective of the police reforms is transformation of the Police which resist the modern challenged, are specialised and technically equipped, have integrity and are respectable; creating the image of a new policeman typical of a democratic legal system. In order to achieve this objective, first of all it is necessary to review and reform the system of preparing and continuous professional training of police officers according to their professional needs, both in terms of the content of the programmes and the method of preparation.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to bring the environment of the Educational Complex in line with the ideological directions of the new police by forming the educational and</p>

	<p>other areas of the complex, to review the training programmes of police officers according to the needs existing in the sub-divisions, to carry out trainings using modern methods of education.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Training programmes aimed at developing the theoretical, tactical knowledge and professional skills of police officers will serve as an effective and balanced mechanism for professional advancement and re-qualification.</p>
7.	<p>7. Adopting a new Law "On weapons"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The Action derives from points 5.4. and 6.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021. The need to develop a new draft law lies in the fact that during the implementation of the Law "On weapons" since 1998, a lot of legislative contradictions and omissions have been revealed, which are conditioned by the amendments made to the national legislation during the development of public relations.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Law "On weapons" in force does not fully regulate the relations emerging during the circulation of weapons, and a number of legal provisions prescribing rights and responsibilities for citizens and legal persons are included in the secondary legislative acts and it is more expedient to combine them within the same law for the purpose of unified regulation.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The new draft law will — in compliance with the current level of development of public relations — regulate the legal circulation of weapons, the scope of rights and responsibilities of legal and natural persons, the procedures for obtaining permits to produce, decorate and repair, license the trade of weapons, as well as the to acquire, collect, display collection, store and use, possess and carry, import or export weapons, and to operate a shooting-range.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the adoption of the draft law, the relations related to the circulation of weapons, the processes of licensing and issuing permits in the field of weapons will be clarified.</p>
8.	<p>8. Adopting a new Law "On stateless persons"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The UN Convention "On the Status of Stateless Persons" of 28 September 1954 and the UN Convention "On the Reduction of Statelessness" of 30 August 1961 entered into force for the Republic of Armenia yet in 1994, but the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Armenia have not been properly</p>

fulfilled so far.

Furthermore, in accordance with Guideline No 2 on statelessness, developed on the basis of the summary conclusions of the Expert Meeting on the procedures for defining the statelessness and the status of stateless persons held in December 2010 in Geneva upon the initiative of the UNHCR for the purpose of the accurate application of the Conventions and resolving the problem of statelessness, a State must establish a clear procedure for determination of the status of a stateless person. It should be noted that no such procedure has been established by any legislative act so far.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On citizenship" and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On foreigners" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 318-N of 2 March 2006 provide for only occasional regulations regarding the determination of the status of stateless persons and the documents provided to them, so currently the status is determined in accordance with the requirements of the Law "On Fundamentals of Administrative Action and Administrative Proceedings".

In addition, the residence certificate issued to a stateless person through the procedure prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 318-N of 2 March 2006 does not meet ICAO standards also in terms of its technical requirements.

At the same time, during the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, the Republic of Armenia made a commitment to:

- study, highlight the main reasons that have been the basis for the sharp increase in the number of stateless persons in the Republic of Armenia in recent years, outline the problems, the main challenges of the sector and present recommendations for their solution, implement effective steps;
- review the legislation to establish the necessary legal mechanisms, grounds to reduce the number of stateless persons and guarantee the exercise of their rights;
- adopt a legal act that will regulate a clear procedure for determining the status of a stateless person.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Migration and Citizenship Service and the Passport and Visa Department of the Police of the Territorial Administration and Infrastructure have merged into the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

The Law "On foreigners" in force defines functions for the above-mentioned two structures, which must be completely reviewed and clarified to exclude duplicate powers, to organise works in a unified and systematic manner. Thus, for instance, granting temporary status of residence to foreigners on a number of grounds provided for by the aforementioned law is reserved to the Passport and Visa Department, and on the basis of work — to the Migration Service. Accordingly, the procedures for considering the applications, providing the statuses and the administration are also different. In addition, it is necessary to revise the provisions related to the deportation of illegal residents, as different procedural requirements are defined for two different structures.

In such circumstances, the draft Law "On foreigners and stateless persons" already in circulation, from the point of view of the regulation of relations with regard to foreigners, needs to be worded in a completely new edition, since, as already mentioned, the functions reserved to various bodies by the law, the

	<p>order of their implementation must be laid out in such a way as to exclude duplicate functions, establish a unified administration and simplify procedures. At the same time, within the context of the digitisation agenda (which requirement is also prescribed by point 90.2 of Annex 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1902-L of 18 November 2021), regulations must be envisaged in relation to receiving and discussing applications electronically, which also implies additional software, since the Migration Service accepted the applications and carried out the administration electronically, while the Passport and Visa Department — on paper.</p> <p>In addition, draft Decision of the Law "On foreigners and stateless persons" has been in circulation for almost 7 years, as a result of which, there was a need to review the administration related to the determination and documentation of the status of persons.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account that the organisation of the above-mentioned works will require necessity for additional studies and a long time, it is recommended to remove the presented draft from circulation, to circulate only the draft of the Law "On stateless persons".</p> <p>At the same time, taking into account that there is a necessity for studying international experience in this sector, which in turn may lead to the necessity for attracting additional financial resources, the financing will be implemented through grant funds.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Ensuring proper implementation of the commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia under the UN Convention "On the Status of Stateless Persons" of 28 September 1954 and the UN Convention "On the Reduction of Statelessness" of 30 August 1961.</p>
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Migration and Citizenship Service	
9.	<p>Implementing institutional reforms in the migration management system</p> <p>9.1 Establishing the Migration and Citizenship Service within the Ministry of Internal Affairs in accordance with Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 23 April 2020 No 638-L "On approving the Strategy on Police Reforms of the Republic of Armenia and the 2020-2022 Action Plan arising from the Strategy</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The ongoing change of the migration situation and reassessment of the priorities of the migration policy make the issue of reforms in the state system of migration management and increase of effectiveness a current issue. For the purpose of overcoming the mentioned gaps and increasing the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of migration management, it would be appropriate to concentrate migration management by merging the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Management and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia with the Passport and Visa Department of the Police by way of civil service under one structure developing a policy on the sector — the Ministry of Internal Affairs, showing an integrated approach to the management of all components of the migration chain. This also stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of</p>

the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia № AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The aim of implementation of the action is to change the status of the body implementing the functions of the Migration Service and include those functions in the organisational-legal form of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Implementation of the functions of migration management is not assessed effectively in Armenia. This is mainly due to the fact that one of the essential components of migration management — documenting for citizens, foreigners and stateless persons and provision of services for them in this sector — is distributed among different bodies and, moreover, beneficiary groups have to deal with several government agencies to solve one problem. As a result, the effectiveness of management and integration of the migration sector declines, the co-ordination of actions becomes complicated, the processes of provision of public services decelerates, the double implementation of actions increases, issues related to transferability of data and synchronisation of databases, as well as complications regarding the identification of persons and incidents emerge.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Migration and Citizenship Service will be established through the merger of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the Passport and Visa Department of the Police. Through the creation of this body, documenting citizens, foreigners and stateless persons and the provision of services for them will be concentrated within one body, which will increase effectiveness of migration management. The co-executors of the action are the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the Police of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is established.

9.2 Organising training for employees of the Migration Service and the Passport and Visa Department for the purpose of forming the first composition of the Migration and Citizenship Service

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The Migration and Citizenship Service will be established within the composition of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in accordance with Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 23 April 2020 No 638-L "On approving the Strategy on Police Reforms of the Republic of Armenia and the 2020-2022 Action Plan arising from the Strategy. Upon Decision No 586-A of 15 April 2021, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has given consent to the Package of Draft Laws ensuring implementation of the reforms of the Police of the Republic of Armenia and has sent it to the National Assembly. Training will be organised for the employees of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the Passport and Visa Department of the Police who contend to hold positions in the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Organising of training for employees of the Migration Service and the Passport and Visa Department for the purpose of establishing the first composition of the Migration and Citizenship Service arises also from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia № AZhVo-002-N of 26 August

2021.

The aim of implementation of the Action is to provide the employees contending to hold positions in the Migration and Citizenship Service with professional knowledge and skills in accordance with the peculiarities of the sectors defined in the descriptions for the position for employees of the Service, shape their general notion of the functions reserved for the Service under the statute of the Migration and Citizenship Service, the tasks and goals of the Service, as well as introduce the future employees to the skills in the culture of service and communication with citizens in order to ensure a proper level of services to be provided.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Migration and Citizenship Service will be established on the basis of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the Passport and Visa Department of the Police, through combination of the functions that are implemented by both bodies. It is necessary that the employees of the Migration Service and the Passport and Visa Department be aware about all the functions, tasks and goals to be implemented by the Migration and Citizenship Service.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The training will provide the employees of the Migration and Citizenship Service to be established with the opportunity to have command of the standards required for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, entry and lawful stay of foreigners and stateless persons, permission for employment and provision of shelter; the ways of providing consultation and serving persons applying to the Service; clarification of citizenship; implementation of proceedings against stateless persons; the regulations and procedures for readmission of persons returning within the scope of readmission agreements, as well as set a high level in terms of the quality of services provided by the Service, for oversight over provision of services and the skills in conducting monitoring of the quality of services provided.

The attendee will master and improve the practical skills of serving the persons applying for the Service, as well as knowledge of conditions of safety of workers and protection of their health. The co-performer of the action is the Police of the Republic of Armenia. The necessary financial resources are provided by the European Union through the Armenian office of the International Organisation for Migration.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The first staff of the Migration and Citizenship Service is fully trained

9.3 Transferring functions related to the social sphere in the Migration Service to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Currently, the Migration Service carries out social functions that are not typical of bodies dealing with migration management, related to the integration of foreigners, refugees and re-integration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia. The Migration and Citizenship Service will be established within the composition of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in accordance with Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Strategy on

	<p>Police Reforms of the Republic of Armenia and the 2020-2022 Action Plan arising from the Strategy " N 638-L of 23 April 2020. Upon Decision No 586-A of 15 April 2021, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has given consent to the Package of Draft Laws ensuring implementation of the reforms of the Police of the Republic of Armenia and has sent it to the National Assembly. Reserving the social function to the new Migration and Citizenship Service is not expedient and does not fit within the operational field of the service and the problems to be solved, therefore, it is necessary to transfer that function to the authorised body of the sector — Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. It also stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia № AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the implementation of the action is to exclude duplication of functions performed by state bodies and to separate these functions according to the scope of powers vested in those bodies.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Migration Service carries out the following activities of a social nature:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) participates in the elaboration of strategies for the integration into society of persons who have received shelter and are declared as refugees in the Republic of Armenia, as well as of long-term immigrants, and in the improvement works of legislation; (2) implements temporary housing programmes and civil orientation courses aimed at integrating refugees into society, and also participates in the organisation of Armenian language training courses for those persons. <p>The aim of integration is to include the given person in the society to some extent, and to ensure this, the provision of various support to the person. For that reason, this function cannot be included within the scope of functions of the newly formed Migration and Citizenship Service, the main aim of which will be the regulation and management of migration flows entering the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>After adoption of relevant legislative regulations (specified by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 586-A of 15 April 2021), the functions related to the social sphere existing in the Migration Service and the transfer thereof to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will be performed by way of making amendments to the relevant secondary legislative acts. The co-implementing body of the action is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The functions related to the social sphere existing in the Migration Service are fully implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.</p>
10	<p>Digitising systems targeted at the management of migration processes;</p> <p>10.1 Establishing a technical base for the digitisation of systems targeted at management of migration processes</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>One of the necessary conditions for digitisation of migration process management systems is the availability of an appropriate technical base. The establishment of that base also stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, most of the systems targeted at the management of migration processes are not digitised and not combined, for the digitisation and combination of those systems, it is necessary to have an appropriate technical base.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Based on the elaborated programme "Introduction of the electronic management system of services provided to foreigners in the Republic of Armenia with regard to accommodation and residence", after the establishment of the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the works on the elaboration of legislative amendments stemming from the programme will begin. Then, the types and quantities of technical means required will be assessed. Technical solutions will be elaborated to ensure digitisation and integration of systems. The Police of the Republic of Armenia, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, the E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Agency are the co-implementing bodies of the action.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessary technical base for the digitisation of systems targeted at the management of migration processes is available.</p>
11.	<p>Digitisation, simplification and automation of services provided to citizens (including foreign citizens)</p> <p>11.1 Implementing recommendations made as a result of the study of services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The data registers for services will be updated, including by ensuring interoperability of the existing digital registers, and the digitisation and interface of non-digital registers. The solution to the problem of digitisation, simplification and automation of services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens, in the migration sphere is also consistent with that context. It also stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the implementation of the action is to maximally simplify the services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens, through digitisation and automation of those services.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, many services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens, are time-consuming, unsynchronised, and require beneficiaries to submit various</p>

	<p>documents. The administration carried out by state bodies is also time-consuming due to the non-digitisation of the services provided.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A study of the services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens, has been carried out. The document evaluates all the processes related to the entry, stay and residence of foreigners in the Republic of Armenia (issuance of visas, issuance of residence statuses, issuance of temporary residence status on the basis of a work permit, issuance of asylum, obtaining citizenship of the Republic of Armenia from the point of view of being/not being digitised) and recommendations are presented regarding their digitisation. After the establishment of the Migration and Citizenship Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the agency legal acts that require changes will be elaborated for digitisation, simplification and automation of services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens, works will be done to create the necessary technical base for solving the problem. The Police of the Republic of Armenia, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, the E-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Agency are the co-implementing bodies of the action. Technical assistance for the implementation of the action will be provided by the Armenian Office of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, with the financial assistance of the European Union.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Amendments have been made to relevant departmental legal acts, the necessary technical base for digitisation is available.</p>
12	<p>Digitisation and simplification of the system for issuing work permits and residency to foreign citizens in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>12.1 Gathering complete statistical data regarding foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia, including foreign citizens without a work permit</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Launching the electronic management system for the issuance of work permits to foreigners and the record-registration of employment contracts of foreigners will make it possible to elaborate a format for collecting and processing administrative statistical data (regarding the gender and age structure, foreign workers, educational and professional level, as well as the branches of the economy in which they are most involved), which, in turn, will be an important basis for the elaboration and review of both migration and employment policies.</p> <p>At the same time, having complete information on foreigners working in the country as a consequence of issuing work permits to foreigners is strictly necessary for the purpose of protecting their rights and refraining from exploitation. Otherwise, the level of vulnerability of foreigners may increase and the ability of the state to identify workers having subjected to trafficking and abuse may decrease. Chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On foreigners" is the basis for the implementation of the action. The collection of complete statistical data on foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia, including those working without a work permit, also stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia № AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to ensure processes of gathering and processing relevant, detailed administrative statistics in the sphere</p>

	<p>of labour migration of foreigners in Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current regulations in the Republic of Armenia for issuing work permits to foreigners and the tools implemented based on them do not provide an opportunity to collect complete information on foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia on the basis of work permits. And on the basis of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On foreigners", there are no statistics regarding foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia without a work permit. As a result, the data collected on foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia is incomplete and insufficient from the point of view of obtaining a complete picture.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Information on foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia based on a work permit and working without a work permit will be entered into the electronic management system for the issuance of work permits to foreigners and the record-registration of employment contracts of foreigners, which will provide an opportunity to get the complete picture of foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the State Revenue Committee are the co-implementing bodies of the action.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Gathering complete statistical data regarding foreign citizens working in the Republic of Armenia, including foreign citizens without a work permit</p>
13.	<p>Ensuring completion of actions provided for by the Concept Paper on State Management of Migration of the Republic of Armenia and targeted at the regulation of issues related to integration and re-integration, the management of migration flows, management of the mass influx of forced migrants and the promotion of repatriation;</p> <p>13.1 Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the programme for management of migration flows"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Point 2 of the Action Plan of the Concept Paper on State Management of Migration of the Republic of Armenia approved by Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 801-L of May 2021 envisages to submit draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the programme for management of migration flows" to the Office of the Prime Minister after the establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum" is the basis for the implementation of the action. It also stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the implementation of the action is to elaborate the state policy for the management of migration flows, in which the included regulations are equivalent to the challenges faced by the state in this sphere, particularly related to social and economic development, demography, and national security issues.</p>

	<p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The 2017-2021 Strategy of the Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 23 March 2017 is the 4th fundamental document defining the migration policy of Armenia since 2000. This document includes 8 key directions to be implemented through 78 measures. The document does not address issues related to the management of migration flows, while after the adoption of the strategy in 2017, new realities have emerged: the immigration flows to Armenia have intensified, bringing with them many problems, the solution of which requires elaboration and introduction of appropriate regulatory mechanisms by the state, considering especially the necessity for neutralising threats to the national security of the country.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the programme for the management of migration flows" is envisaged to begin after the establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Police of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are the co-implementing bodies of the action.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the programme for management of migration flows" is adopted.</p>
14.	<p>Ongoing improvement of the mechanisms for admission of foreign citizens and stateless persons seeking asylum in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>14.1 Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>During the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum", a number of gaps have appeared, which hinder the effective organisation of the process of admission of foreign citizens and stateless persons seeking asylum in the Republic of Armenia and providing international protection. Elaboration of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum" stems from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the implementation of the action is improve the legal basis for accepting foreign citizens and stateless persons seeking shelter in the Republic of Armenia. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum" is the basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the regulations of the Law cause certain practical problems. In particular, in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum" in case the asylum seeker does not meet the definition of a refugee, but the principle of non-refoulement is applicable to him, that is, in case of returning to the country of origin, there is a real threat that the person concerned may be subjected to cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment or</p>

	<p>punishment in that country, including torture, there are no effective protection mechanisms for persons, and the powers of the competent authority in this regard are not clear. In practice, problems also arise with regard to the conclusion provided by the National Security Service, so it is necessary to develop a more effective structure to ensure mutually beneficial co-operation between the Migration Service and the National Security Service. It is also quite problematic to identify the specific needs of asylum seekers when they submit an asylum application. Failure to identify special needs in time creates obstacles for properly conducting administrative proceedings. In practice, problems also arise in connection with the completion of administrative proceedings initiated in case of voluntary return of asylum seekers.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Strengthening migration management capacity in support of the Government, within the scope of agenda of reforms in line with CEPA, with the support of UNHCR, inter-agency working group on the revision of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia on international defence was established. The group had two thematic meetings, during which the large amount of work to be done was recorded, it was considered necessary to organise additional discussions with the involvement of more interested parties. The amendment of the law raises the issue of the applicability of the principle of non-refoulement, however, in case of refusal to grant refugee status, to establish the possibility of granting temporary protection status. To specify by law the powers of the National Security Service and the requirements submitted to the conclusion provided by the latter. It is also envisaged to conduct an initial mandatory medical examination of asylum seekers for the purpose of identifying their special needs in case of submitting an asylum claim. The law should comprehensively regulate the grounds for dismissing and suspending the administrative proceedings on the asylum claim, particularly in the case of voluntary return of the asylum seeker. It will be necessary to review the legal regulations of the cases examined through an expedited procedure, which will contribute to effectively conducting proceedings through an expedited procedure in practice. The Police of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the co-implementing bodies of the action, the Armenian Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The gaps that appeared during the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On refugees and asylum" have been eliminated.</p>
15	<p>Effectively organising the processes of readmission, in accordance with the international commitments assumed in that field.</p> <p>15.1 Expanding the geography of readmission agreements and applying digital solutions in the sphere</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>During 2021, 1 agreement on readmission, 2 protocols ensuring implementation were signed, and in 2022, 1 agreement on readmission, 2 protocols ensuring implementation were ratified.</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia has signed readmission agreements with the European Union and the Russian Federation. Requests received within the scope of readmission agreements are increasing year by year, and the effective organisation of the process is greatly contributed by the presence of the electronic management system for readmission requests, which needs continuous improvement. Signing readmission agreements with the countries of origin is also</p>

	<p>important. The expansion of the geography of readmission agreements and the application of digital solutions in the sector also stem from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N° AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of the implementation of the action is to sign readmission agreements with a large number of countries, including countries of origin, as well as to ensure the response to readmission requests submitted by states of entry within the scope of the signed agreements within the time limits and in the manner prescribed.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, discussions on readmission agreements with a number of states have been completed: the texts have been agreed upon and are waiting for signing, negotiations with some others are in progress. Claims from EU countries are received through the electronic system for management of readmission requests, the purpose of which is to quickly and efficiently organise the readmission process through a modern, automated system. From the point of view of the effectiveness of the organisation of the work, it is important to strive that other states also submit claims through the electronic system. The Police of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia are the co-implementing bodies of the action.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Negotiations are underway to sign readmission agreements with other countries, including countries of origin. With other states that have signed readmission agreements with the Republic of Armenia, also, whenever possible, the process of receiving requests and sending responses is organised through an electronic system for management of readmission requests.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The geography of readmission agreements is expanded due to the fact that Armenia also acts as a sending country, digital solutions are used in the sphere.</p>
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Emergency Situations	
16.	<p>16.1 Establishing bases of civil defence in 8 borderline settlements in Syunik Marz and providing relevant transportation means and property-equipment</p> <p>16.2 Establishing bases of civil defence in 4 borderline settlements in Vayots Dzor Marz and providing relevant transportation means and property-equipment</p> <p>16.3 Construction of garages in 11 operating bases of civil defence located in borderline settlements of Tavush Marz for maintaining transportation means</p>

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Due to the consequences of the 44-day war that took place in 2020, new challenges have appeared in the eastern borderline settlements of Syunik Marz. A number of settlements are located on the borderline with the Republic of Azerbaijan, which poses a great threat. For the purpose of whistle-blowing, sheltering, evacuating the population of those settlements, providing first aid, combating potential sabotage and intelligence groups, organising and implementing other tasks, it is recommended to establish bases (sub-divisions) of civil defence of the Rescue Service in the settlements of Khndzoresk, Shurnukh, Davit Bek, Yeghvard, Shikahox, Nerkin Hand, Kornidzor and Khoznavar. The bases will contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of security and trust and improvement of the overall moral and psychological condition among the population of those settlements.

During 2021-2026, it is also envisaged to establish 4 civil defence bases in settlements of Chiva, Khachik, Bardzruni and Khndzorut of Vayots Dzor Marz, as well as construction of garages in 11 operating bases of civil defence located in borderline settlements of Tavush Marz for maintaining transportation means.

Sub-point 3 of Article 5 and sub-point "h" of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On rescue service", as well as sub-point 4 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On defence" serve as a basis for the action.

The specified bases of the Collective Centre of the Civil Defence Forces are established for the purpose of performing the following functions:

- (1) conducting civil defence intelligence to make substantiated decisions by the management staff of civil defence;
- (2) complete sanitary processing of the population, civil defence forces, disinfection of infected clothes and shoes;
- (3) carrying out special processing of radiologically and chemically contaminated equipment;
- (4) implementing dosimetric control of the population (including sheltered population) and personnel of the civil defence forces;
- (5) detecting mined areas, placing prohibition signs (implementing demining measures) and organising territory control;
- (6) detecting water sources, carrying out water extraction and cleaning, drilling works;
- (7) organising and implementing search, discovery, removal and transportation of victims from destroyed, undermined and burning buildings and ruins;
- (8) providing first medical aid to victims in hotbeds of accidents and destructions;
- (9) supporting population evacuation measures, including from radiologically contaminated and chemically and biologically contaminated zones;
- (10) organising and implementing patrol service;
- (11) participating, together with the military units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia in the detection, encirclement and neutralisation works of infiltrated intelligence groups of the adversary;
- (12) carrying out works of the construction of protective approach avenues and positions.

<p>Currently, 12 bases of 2 squads have been established on the base of the collective centre of the civil defence forces of the Civil Defense Department of the Rescue Service (Tavush Squad, Azatamut, Chinari, N. Karmiraghbyur, Aygepar, Movses, Paravakar, Choratan. Noyemberyan squad Voskevan, Sarigyugh, Berdavan, Koti, Dovegh). The transportation means attached to the operating bases (except for Base of Movses of Tavush squad) are standing in open air due to the lack of appropriate garages, which causes problems for exploitation of the transportation means in winter period.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The actions stem from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Sector of Protection. Reforms of Armed Forces" of Chapter "1. Security and Foreign Policy" of the Plan.</p> <p>"The Government will raise the level of security of strategic facilities and infrastructures."</p> <p>The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and man-made disasters" according to the ("assessed professional indicators") "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, 12 bases of 2 squads have been established on the base of the collective centre of the civil defence forces of the Civil Defense Department of the Rescue Service (Tavush Squad, Azatamut, Chinari, N. Karmiraghbyur, Aygepar, Movses, Paravakar, Choratan. Noyemberyan squad Voskevan, Sarigyugh, Berdavan, Koti, Dovegh).</p> <p>Conditioned by the consequences of the 44-day war taken place in 2020, as well as taking into account the physical and geographical locations of the marzes, the roads — with considerable differences of absolute heights of the locality of Syunik Marz and Vayots Dzor Marz — leading to rural settlements become barely passable, and sometimes impassable in winter months.</p> <p>In the dry and hot weather conditions of summer, almost all the sub-divisions of the rescue departments of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Syunik and Vayots Dzor marzes are overloaded, they go from one scene to another scene, covering dozens of kilometres, and sometimes they respond to several incidents with considerable delays. There are rural settlements in Marz, which, according to the timetable defined, are at up to 48 km distance from the firefighting-rescue squads serving (hereinafter FRS) and the combat crew of firefighting-rescue squads, in particular, in cases of emergency situations having arisen in borderline settlements, arrive at the scene after 50-60 minutes by passing through the bends for service in war.</p> <p>During 2021-2026, it is recommended to establish 8 civil defence bases in the settlements of Khndzoresk, Shurnukh, Davit Bek, Yeghvard, Shikahogh, Nerkin Hand, Kornidzor and Khoznavar of Syunik marz (26 staff positions each), establish 4 civil defence bases in the settlements of Chiva, Khachik, Bardzruni and Khndzorut of Vayots Dzori marz.</p> <p>Currently, 12 bases of 2 squads have been established on the base of the collective centre of the civil defence forces of the Civil Defense Department of the Rescue Service (Tavush Squad, Azatamut, Chinari, N. Karmiraghbyur, Aygepar, Movses, Paravakar, Choratan. Noyemberyan squad Voskevan, Sarigyugh, Berdavan, Koti, Dovegh). The transportation means attached to the operating bases (except for Base of Movses of Tavush squad) are standing in open air</p>

	<p>due to the lack of appropriate garages, which causes problems for exploitation of the transportation means in winter period. In particular, for the purpose of avoiding the freezing of water in the water tanks of fire-fighting vehicles and as a result, problems of the fire-fighting vehicle with regard to going out of operation, during 2024-2026, it is envisaged to establish 11 garages in operating civil defence bases (except for Base of Movses of Tavush squad).</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to create the bases of civil defence in the case of provision of appropriate number of staff positions to the Ministry of Emergency Situations. For the establishment of 12 new bases envisaged in Syunik and Vayots Dzor Marzes, 312 staff positions of rescue workers are necessary (1 officer, 4 non-commissioned officers, 20 rank-and-file sergeants and 1 technical serviceman each). AMD 1,289 billion will be required to secure the necessary staff positions for 12 new bases in the settlements of Syunik and Vayots Dzor Marzes, as well as to acquire firefighting-rescue vehicles, rescue property, communication means and high-passable vehicles (AMD 44,5 million for the personnel, AMD 62,996 million for transportation means and property-equipment), AMD 110 million will be required for construction of parking lots in 11 bases of Tavush Marz.</p> <p>The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Syunik Marz and Vayots Dzor Marz marzpetarans and municipalities should assist in the implementation of the actions within the scope of their powers. In particular, they should establish civil defence forces in their marzes, communities, carry out the evacuation of population, tangible and cultural values of the community, shelter the population and provide of individual protection means, ensure the safety of facilities and infrastructures of strategic importance.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Establishing the civil defence bases in border settlements will provide an opportunity to ensure the protection of the population of the mentioned settlements, protection of paramount facilities and infrastructures thereof, and performance of rescue and firefighting activities in border communities.</p>
17.	<p>17.1 Improving the property of the Rescue Service forces constituting a component of the RACHR response forces (providing special technical appliances and equipment). Training of the staff (raising qualification).</p> <p>3. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity for continuous development of the “Russian-Armenian Centre for Humanitarian Response” Inter-governmental Non-Commercial Organisation (hereinafter referred to as “RACHR” or “Centre”) established upon the agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Russian Federation for the purpose of responding to emergency situations having occurred in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation and third countries, and is aimed at increasing the level of protection of population in emergency situations through equipping the subdivisions of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia with modern equipment and improving the professional knowledge and practical skills of firefighters-rescuers.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The actions stem from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in title "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" — "One of the main factors for ensuring security will be the flexible and efficient system for disaster</p>

	<p>risk management, due to the introduction whereof we will have a protected population, economy, territories, infrastructures, cultural and environmental facilities", and Section "1.1 Foreign policy" of the Plan:</p> <p>"• Armenia will continue to strengthen and expand allied relations and strategic partnership with Russia in all directions on the agenda of Armenia-Russia bilateral co-operation, including the military and political, economic, energy, transport, humanitarian, and cultural sectors."</p> <p>The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population" and according to "2.4.2 Number of civilian casualties as a consequence of technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" "out of the total number of citizens of the Republic of Armenia, indexed indicator".</p> <p>3.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Russian-Armenian Centre for Humanitarian Response has been established on the basis of the shared payments of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia. It includes the budgetary means of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation, as well as the moveable and immovable property provided to the Centre by the states of the parties with the right to use. According to the agreement, the Armenian side has provided relevant area, buildings, constructions, and covers the costs of service and maintenance of the Centre. The Russian side provides firefighting-rescue devices, equipment, tools and property necessary for responding to emergency situations. In 2017, the Russian side acquired 42 units of firefighting and rescue devices, equipment, tools, property of different significance for more than USD 16 million. 37 units out of 42 units of property were transferred to the sub-divisions of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The development process of the Centre is continuous. In 2021, for the purpose of re-equipping the RACHR and sub-divisions of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia comprising a responsive component thereof, with the participation of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, the 2022-2024 Development Plan of the Centre has been drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation. The Plan, along with firefighting-rescue devices, equipment, has also envisaged technical means, equipment, property, household appliances, etc., necessary for furnishing the hangar-like multi-functional training complex to be built for the purpose of improving the quality of preparing specialists. The acquisition and import of the mentioned goods to Armenia is expected already from 2022.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To settle the existing issues, the following actions need to be carried out: - to organise the educational process of rescuers in the area of the RACHR, it is necessary to build a multi-functional training complex which will provide the opportunity to involve more specialists in the process of instruction and training carried out by the efforts of the higher educational institutions of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation, reduce secondments to the Russian Federation in conditions of Covid-19 to the maximum extent possible, as well as organise the theoretical and practical trainings of the students and trainees of the Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. Intensify co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Armenian Red Cross Society (courses on first aid and modern international legal regulations), the International Civil Defence Organisation (for establishing a regional educational centre).</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the implementation of point 4 of Protocol No 3 of the Sitting of the Department of the Russian-Armenian Centre for</p>
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	<p>Humanitarian Response of 27 May 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan addressed a letter to Vice President of the Government of the Russian Federation A. L. Overchuk on the co-operation aimed at the development of the Centre; construction of the hangar is also included in the co-operation.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>In case of settling the existing issues, the Armenian side will have performed the obligations assumed under the inter-governmental agreement signed by the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia will have sub-divisions staffed with high-level rescuers, prepared for responding to emergency situations.</p>
18.	<p>18.1 Modernisation of the National Monitoring Network and expanding it with new GPS stations.</p> <p>1. 1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Armenia is in a seismic zone and is deemed to be one of the territories characterised with the most dangerous and highest seismic risk. Strong and destructive earthquakes occur regularly. By preparing for a possible strong earthquake, the severe consequences thereof may be radically reduced. The best way to protect therefrom is the provision of reliable monitoring of seismic risk, which is one of the most important issues of the seismic safety of Armenia (Articles 5, 20 of Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-376-N of 6 July 2002 “On seismic protection”).</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The Action is envisaged to be implemented in co-operation with the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and Département analyse, surveillance, environnement (DASE).</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "1.1 Foreign policy" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" of the Plan.</p> <p>"• The Government will continue to reinforce the privileged relations with the French Republic also based on the status of co-chairing country of the OSCE Minsk Group of France. In parallel with the existing co-operation in the political sector, clear steps will be taken to deepen economic relations with France."</p> <p>In the title "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" of the Plan — "One of the main factors for ensuring security will be the flexible and efficient system for disaster risk management, due to the introduction whereof we will have a protected population, economy, territories, infrastructures, cultural and environmental facilities. By making investments in the sector of disaster risk management, the Government will directly prevent and impact the causes of emergence of disasters, by avoiding incomparably larger expenses required for the elimination of consequences." The Action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p> <p>2.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Today, one of the urgent issues of ensuring monitoring is the replacement of devices of geophysical unit stations with modern equipment, modernisation of</p>

	<p>hydrogeochemical stations, re-equipment of the hydrogeochemical laboratory of the “<i>Seismic Protection Territorial Survey</i>” <i>SNCO (SPTS)</i> of the Ministry of Emergency Situations with modern devices and equipment, and expansion of the network with the latest GPS devices. As of this moment, 2 GPS stations are operating in the national observation network; it is envisaged to add 4 more GPS stations. Data received from the modernised networks and via modern communication means are important constituents for an operative and reliable assessment of the current seismic risk.</p> <p>2.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Re-equipment of the operating stations with equipment will contribute to the creation of an observation network in compliance with international standards. It should be mentioned that devices and equipment in a number of observation points of the National Seismic Monitoring Network (for example, hydrogeodynamic, seismic, strong movements of the ground, etc.) have already been modernised with the support of international partner organisations.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the task will considerably increase the level of seismic risk monitoring in Armenia and contribute to the increase in reliability of seismic risk assessment.</p>
19.	<p>19.1 Assessment of the seismic vulnerability of dams of 24 reservoirs of the Republic of Armenia of special state significance in accordance with the plan/schedule. Submitting recommendations according to the expert opinion.</p> <p>1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the Plan will define the approaches to and priorities of assessing the seismic vulnerability of dams of water reservoirs of a special-purpose facility (Articles 8, 9, 10 of Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-376-N of 6 July 2002 “On seismic protection”).</p> <p>The legal grounds for the implementation of the Action are point 4 of part 1 of Article 8, point 2 of part 1 of Article 12, and point 2 of part 2 of Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On seismic protection”.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "3.3 Water economy" of Chapter "3. Development of infrastructures" of the Plan.</p> <p>" • Along with the construction of water reservoirs, assessment of the seismic vulnerability of dams of the existing water reservoirs of special state significance will be carried out in order to make them safe and usable."</p> <p>and more applicable." The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of</p> <p>Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p>

	<p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Assessment of the level of seismic vulnerability has not been carried out for special-purpose water reservoirs, and the reduction of the seismic risk requires a thorough survey of the dams of existing water reservoirs for the purpose of making further operation thereof safe.</p> <p>Upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" N 1902-L of 18 November 2021, it was envisaged to carry out sub-point 6.2 of the Section of the Ministry of Emergency Situations within 4 years — survey of 6 reservoirs per year during 2023-2026. However, due to the failure to finance it in 2023, the implementation of the Action — survey of 8 reservoirs per year — was moved to 2025-2026 upon Decision No 2300-L "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1902-L of 18 November 2021" of 25 December 2023. No funding has been allocated under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2025-2027 for implementation of the Action, therefore it is planned to be implemented at the expense of other funds not prohibited by law, conducting during 2025-2026 survey of 12 reservoirs in total.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Adoption of the Plan will provide the opportunity to carry out co-ordinated activities for assessing the level of seismic vulnerability of the dams of water reservoirs of special state significance. Make recommendations to the interested state bodies for the purpose of making their further operation safe. Necessary technical specifications of the dams of water reservoirs of special state significance will be acquired in co-operation with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the Plan will provide the opportunity to considerably raise the level of seismic protection of dams of water reservoirs, ensure the implementation of activities for reinforcing them, upon necessity, based on recommendations.</p>
20.	<p>20.1 Developing and introducing training programmes for the managing staff and specialists of the civil defence system</p> <p>2. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>Formation of knowledge, skills of the population on rules of conduct, including mastering skills of first aid during emergency situations and martial law.</p> <p>Raising the level of awareness and education of the population with regard to the issues of protection and civil defence of the population in emergency situations stems from the requirements of Articles 4 and 20 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On protection of the population in emergency situations", as well as Articles 7 and 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On civil defence", as well as a number of decisions approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" of the Plan.</p>

	<p>"From the perspective of resistance to disasters, educational programmes for disaster risk management and protection of the population will be regularly elaborated, updated and introduced in the educational system for the purpose of raising the level of awareness and preparedness of the population."</p> <p>The Action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population" and according to "2.4.2 Number of civilian casualties as a consequence of technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" "out of the total number of citizens of the Republic of Armenia, indexed indicator".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Taking into account the circumstance that various natural, technogenic, sociogenic and other threats are posed to the Republic of Armenia, the above-stated issue is highly up-to-date, since there may be various losses from the situations and military operations caused as a result thereof (human, economic, pecuniary, cultural, etc.).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The necessary skills, knowledge on rules of conduct, as well as availability of knowledge on preparedness in emergency situations formed by the trained management staff of state administration and local self-government bodies, and organisations, will ensure a relevant level of awareness, formation and development of a safety culture. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure must assist in the introduction of training programmes for the management staff and specialists of defence structures.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the actions</p> <p>The expected outcome from the Action: the management staff of state administration and local self-government bodies, and organisations, having formed necessary rules of conduct and behaviour during emergency situations and military operations.</p>
21.	<p>21.1 Building a training ground in Lusakert training facility of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (applied fire-fighting sport complex, gas and smoke protection module, a climbing wall measuring around 2x6 m, 3 classrooms)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Building the training ground is necessary for making the process of training of rescue officers more effective.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" of the Plan.</p> <p>"From the perspective of resistance to disasters, educational programmes for disaster risk management and protection of the population will be regularly elaborated, updated and introduced in the educational system for the purpose of raising the level of awareness and preparedness of the population."</p>

	<p>As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "professional assessment" "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, sub-divisions of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia do not have a training ground for carrying out practical exercises of training courses, and the practical exercises are carried out in the construction rented on lease. No competitions in applied firefighting sports are held, republican championships for young firefighters-rescuers and preparation of teams of young firefighters-rescuers participating in international tournaments are held incompletely. After the establishment of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the requirements for the training ground will be expanded in terms of size and technical capabilities.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Build a training ground in Lusakert training facility of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, applied fire-fighting sport complex, gas and smoke protection module, a climbing wall measuring around 2x6 m, 3 classrooms.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of construction of the training ground, conditions for organising the training courses of fire-fighters-rescuers more effectively will be created, practical trainings of applied fire-fighting sport, fire-fighting marching drills, as well as tactical elements will be conducted, and young firefighting-rescue teams participating in international tournaments will be prepared. The training ground will serve for the trainings and exercises of the forces of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.</p>
	<p>21.2 Establishing 6 rescue and rapid response teams in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk, Armavir, and Aragatsotn marzes of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>2. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of creation of the teams is saving people's life, tangible assets and cultural property during mass disasters by co-operating with the disaster On-Site Operations Co-ordination Center, responding international urban search and rescue teams, local self-government bodies and other international organisations in accordance with the requirements of the UN International Search and Rescue Advisory Team (INSARAG) Guidelines.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and Foreign Policy" of the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fundamental regional security issues — natural-climatic, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters, wars, epidemics and terrorist acts, universal (global) climate changes, weak institutional management and demographic changes become a reason for the emergence of an unstable internal

	<p>situation, the management whereof requires additional forces and resources from the State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this regard, a harmonious safe environment will be created through the introduction of an effective system for increasing the resistance to disasters, reducing risks, awareness-raising and education." <p>The provision is included in Section "1.1 Foreign policy" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" of the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia is committed to the fundamental values of the United Nations and highly appreciates the role of the United Nations in the fields of peace, co-operation of nations, human rights and humanitarian issues. Armenia will continue its active works within the scope of the institution, attaching importance to the role of the institution from the perspective of both solving regional issues and formulating global/universal challenges and organising activities in relation thereto." <p>The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population" and according to "2.4.2 Number of civilian casualties as a consequence of technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" "out of the total number of citizens of the Republic of Armenia, indexed indicator". 1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Republic of Armenia has 1 urban search and rescue team having undergone external qualification and 4 urban search and rescue teams having undergone internal qualification in accordance with the criteria of the UN International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), which have relevant property-equipment to carry out self-sufficient rescue activities in the disaster zone for 7 days, and there are no urban search and rescue teams in the other 6 marzes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establish urban search and rescue teams in 6 marzes of the Republic of Armenia, improve the practical and theoretical knowledge of the team members by involving them in drills and seminars (including international).</p> <p>Equip the teams with modern technical means by making the response to and co-ordination of large-scale disasters having emerged more effective.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>To have teams in compliance with the criteria of the UN International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) in all marzes of the Republic of Armenia, which are able to perform rescue works self-sufficiently for 24 hours in case of major disasters.</p>
	<p>21.3 Programme for improving the fire-fighting property of the Rescue Service</p> <p>3. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Settling the issues of raising the level of provision of the affected population with operative and effective aid as a result of updating the transportation means</p>

	<p>and ensuring constant readiness of 15 subordinate sub-divisions of Aragatsotn, Armavir, Ararat and Kotayk marz Rescue Departments of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.</p> <p>3. Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and foreign policy" of the Plan:</p> <p>"The fundamental regional security issues — natural-climatic, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters, wars, epidemics and terrorist acts, universal (global) climate changes, weak institutional management and demographic changes become a reason for the emergence of an unstable internal situation, the management whereof requires additional forces and resources from the State. In this regard, a harmonious safe environment will be created through the introduction of an effective system for increasing the resistance to disasters, reducing risks, awareness-raising and education."</p> <p>The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The transport park of 15 subordinate sub-divisions of Armavir, Kotayk, Ararat and Aragatsotn marz Rescue Departments of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations is old, due to which the response to emergency situations is carried out in ineffectively.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to provide the 15 subordinate sub-divisions of Armavir, Kotayk, Ararat and Aragatsotn marz Rescue Departments of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations with 49 firefighting-rescue vehicles within the scope of the Plan, 25 whereof — firefighting tank vehicles with a capacity of 5 tons, 5 — with a capacity of 4 tons, 4 automatic ladder fire trucks and 15 rescue vehicles.</p> <p>Due to the vehicles acquired, it will be possible to reduce the time period for responding to emergencies and accidents by around 30%.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It will be possible to reduce the time-period for responding to fires, emergencies and accidents by around 30%.</p> <p>The number of human victims of emergencies and fires, the losses of tangible assets and culture property (sizes of the damage caused to the population and the State) will also reduce, the technical appliances and equipment acquired within the scope of the Plan will be located for rapidly responding to emergencies and accidents having arisen in Armavir, Kotayk, Ararat and Aragatsotn Marzes.</p>
	21.4 Acquiring 6 unmanned aerial vehicles

2. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The main objective of acquiring unmanned aerial vehicles is reducing the time period for conducting research of and making decisions on fires, emergencies and accidents in order to settle the issues of raising the level of provision of the affected population with operative and effective aid, as well as mapping.

Relation to strategic documents

The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and Foreign Policy" of the Plan.

The fundamental regional security issues — natural-climatic, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters, wars, epidemics and terrorist acts, universal (global) climate changes, weak institutional management and demographic changes become a reason for the emergence of an unstable internal situation, the management whereof requires additional forces and resources from the State.

In this regard, a harmonious safe environment will be created through the introduction of an effective system for increasing the resistance to disasters, reducing risks, awareness-raising and education.

By making investments in the sector of disaster risk management, the Government will directly prevent and impact the causes of emergence of disasters, by avoiding incomparably larger expenses required for the elimination of consequences."

The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The sub-divisions of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations are not replenished with innovative technologies, which makes it difficult to determine the decisive directions of major fires, emergencies and accidents, which lead to the increase in pecuniary damages and may cause human losses.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to allocate unmanned aerial vehicles to the sub-divisions of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and train the personnel on rules of operation.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The sub-divisions of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations will, through applying unmanned aerial vehicles with innovative technologies, carry out quick research, mapping of emergencies and accidents, the time period for decision-making will be reduced, and training of rescuers will be conducted.

The involvement of forces and resources during emergency situations will be carried out faster and more effectively, which will provide the opportunity to

	considerably decrease the spread of particularly large-scale fire, and provide victims with necessary aid by reducing the search time.
	<p>21.5 Capacity Building Programme for the Rescue Service of Emergency Response</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:</p> <p>The necessity for the action stems from the provisions of Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "Security and Foreign Policy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, according to which, due to climate, technogenic and man-made disasters, wars, epidemics and terrorisms, universal (global) climate changes, weak institutional governance, demographic changes, the management of internal unstable situations requires additional forces and resources from the state.</p> <p>The main aim of the action is to solve the problems of increasing the level of operational and effective assistance to the affected population as a result of updating vehicles and ensuring constant readiness of 13 subordinate sub-divisions of rescue departments of Tavush, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor marzes of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The transport park of 13 subordinate sub-divisions of rescue departments of Tavush, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor marzes of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is old, as a result of which emergency response is not effective.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the programme, it is recommended to provide the 13 subordinate sub-divisions of rescue departments of Tavush, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor marzes of the Rescue Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia with 42 fire-rescue vehicles and special equipment, 12 of which are fire trucks with a capacity of 6 tons, 12 fire trucks — with a capacity of 5 tons, 3 fire car ladders, 12 rescue vehicles (first aid vehicle), 1 pick-up vehicle, 1 motor boat and 1 recompression chamber□</p> <p>Due to the vehicles acquired, it will be possible to reduce the time period for responding to emergencies and accidents by around 30%.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It will be possible to reduce the time-period for responding to fires, emergencies and accidents by around 30%.</p> <p>The number of human victims of emergencies and fires, the losses of tangible assets and culture property (sizes of the damage caused to the population and the State) will also reduce, the technical appliances and equipment acquired within the scope of the Plan will be located for rapidly responding to emergencies and accidents having arisen in Tavush, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor Marzes.</p>
22.	<p>22.1 Taking preventive measures based on the results of the instrumental examinations in 6 landslide areas</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

<p>Due to the failure to conduct surveys in landslide areas and implement follow-up preventive actions, the Government is forced to allocate several times more financial resources to settle the issues of re-settlement of residents of hundreds of crumbling residential houses, as well as to eliminate the consequences of landslide phenomena.</p> <p>Such an approach, by requiring large and ever-increasing financial resources, does not provide a complete solution to the issue, since the number of damaged and crumbling houses is increasing over time, and the re-settlement leads to the destruction and gradual elimination of especially border and high mountainous settlements, evacuation of population, emergence of socio-economic and a number of other serious fundamental issues.</p> <p>The consistent implementation of measures to combat the landslide disaster will contribute to the sustainable development of settlements, the uninterrupted operation of infrastructure, life support facilities and residential houses, the preservation of the environment, drastically reducing the damage caused to the economy by landslides, which directly stems from the general economic and social problems and objectives of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action is considered as a landslide disaster management action.</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and Foreign Policy" of the Plan.</p> <p>"One of the main factors for ensuring security will be a flexible and efficient system for disaster risk management, as a result of the introduction whereof we will have a protected population, economy, territories, infrastructures and environmental facilities.</p> <p>By making investments in the sector of disaster risk management, the Government will directly prevent and impact the causes of emergence of disasters, by avoiding incomparably larger expenses required for the elimination of consequences."</p> <p>The provision is partially included in Section "3.3 Water economy" of Chapter "3. Development of Infrastructures", by observing the operation of collector-drainage network as a preventive action for landslide disaster. Activities for protection and exploitation of the collector and drainage network will continue."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for the protection and operation of the drainage collector network will continue." <p>The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Landslide phenomena have caused and continue to cause great damage to residential houses, infrastructures, vital facilities, industrial capacities, and the environment of landslide areas of the Republic, by posing a threat to the life of residents of those areas. The landslides cause desolation of especially mountainous and border settlements, destruction of historical and cultural property, impoverishment, evacuation, and emigration of the population, emergence of a number of social issues, and hinder the development of the economy and growth of population. Due to the failure to conduct or partial</p>
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	<p>conduct of surveys in landslide areas and follow-up preventive actions, the Government is forced to allocate several times more financial resources to settle the issues of re-settlement of residents of hundreds of crumbling residential houses, as well as to eliminate the consequences of landslide phenomena. Such an approach, by requiring large and ever-increasing financial resources, does not provide a complete solution to the issue, since the number of damaged and crumbling houses is increasing over time, and the re-settlement leads to the destruction and gradual elimination of especially border and high mountainous settlements, evacuation of population, emergence of socio-economic and a number of other serious fundamental issues.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of the surveys conducted in landslide areas, implement anti-landslide preventive actions which will contribute to ensuring the security of the population and conserving the environment, reducing and preventing hazards and risks.</p> <p>Based on the geological, geophysical, hydrological peculiarities of landslide objects, as well as peculiarities of preventive actions, financial calculations may have significant deviations; therefore it will be possible to submit a financial assessment of the implementation of monitoring of each landslide object and preventive actions based on the design and estimate documents drawn up as a result of studies.</p> <p>Taking into account the above-stated, it is recommended to envisage financial resources each year, aimed at the implementation of anti-landslide actions having a financial assessment substantiated as a result of the survey within the scope of the “Landslide Disaster Management” Programme.</p> <p>It is expedient to provide for a certain amount of money in the budget each year for the implementation of preventive actions according to the results of the survey conducted.</p> <p>Co-implementing bodies will assist in the effective organisation of activities, provision of information on sites.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The study, forecast and prevention of landslide phenomena in the Republic will contribute to the protection of the population from landslides from a disastrous situation, safe and uninterrupted operation of territories, buildings and constructions, various structures, and communication channels.</p> <p>The fight against the landslide disaster, as a strategic direction of security, needs to be always included in state socio-economic development programmes, and gradually prevent the hazards and reduce the risks by providing consistent solutions through a co-ordinated approach.</p>
23.	<p>23.1 Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Concept Paper on Forming an Early Disaster Warning System and the Action Plan ensuring the implementation thereof" to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Concept Paper on Forming an Early Disaster Warning System and the Action Plan ensuring the implementation thereof" will provide the opportunity to regulate the fundamental issues of warning and awareness-raising of the population and the managing staff in the field of emergency situations, as well as organise the formation of the system of warning and</p>

	<p>awareness-raising of the population.</p> <p>Point "d" of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On protection of population in emergency situations" and point "d" of Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On civil defence" serve as a basis for the implementation of the Action. The legal ground for the implementation of the actions is point "b" of part 1 of Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the protection of population in emergency situations".</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Increasing the resistance to disasters" of Chapter "1. Security and Foreign Policy" of the Plan.</p> <p>The fundamental regional security issues — natural-climatic, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters, wars, epidemics and terrorist acts, universal (global) climate changes, weak institutional management and demographic changes become a reason for the emergence of an unstable internal situation, the management whereof requires additional forces and resources from the State.</p> <p>In this regard, a harmonious safe environment will be created through the introduction of an effective system for increasing the resistance to disasters, reducing risks, awareness-raising and education."</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The warning system built in the Republic of Armenia in the Soviet years does not operate due to the digitalisation of automatic telephone exchanges by the centralised "Telecom-Armenia" CJSC, removal from operation and dismantling of analogue communication channels.</p> <p>There are 1159 warning horns installed in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, 60% whereof operate independently (autonomously) and are not included in a single common network.</p> <p>The results of the analysis on the disaster risk posed to communities, conducted by international organisations and non-governmental organisations, prove that the majority of the communities finds the effective activity of the warning system and provision of information necessary.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account the above-stated, a necessity arises to regulate the actions implemented for warning and awareness-raising of the population of the Republic of Armenia by a legal act for the purpose of protecting the population in emergency situations.</p> <p>Co-implementing bodies should assist in the implementing of the actions within the scope of their powers, in particular, with regard to the place of installation of warning systems, regulations relating to communications, preservation of the systems installed and performance of functions relating to responsible persons.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Concept Paper on Forming an Early Disaster Warning</p>
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	<p>System and the Action Plan ensuring the implementation thereof” will provide the opportunity to introduce an efficient early disaster warning system which will contribute to the reduction of economic damages and human losses. .</p> <p>The implementation of the actions stemming from the Concept Paper will contribute to providing the communities (in particular, border communities) with a modern warning system</p>
24.	<p>24.1 Renovating and furnishing the Reserve Control Point</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Point "d" of Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On civil defence" prescribes the following as a preparation action for civil defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the establishment of systems of management, communication and warning and ensuring their normal operation”. <p>Management points also constitute a part of the interconnected integrity of the civil defence management system, which are constructions or transportation means specially furnished and equipped with technical means that are envisaged for deploying the management bodies and ensuring the activities thereof in emergency situations and martial law.</p> <p>Relation to strategic documents</p> <p>The action stems from the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The provision is included in Section "Sector of Protection. Reforms of Armed Forces" of Chapter "1. Security and Foreign Policy" of the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government will increase the effectiveness of the system of management and administration of the Armed Forces. <p>Necessary legislative amendments will be made aimed at settling nation-wide issues in the defence sector and clarification of the procedures for organising defence, including the powers and duties of the military security system bodies of the State related to the defence sector.</p> <p>The Strategy for National Security of the Republic of Armenia will be reviewed, a new Military Doctrine and State Protection Plan will be elaborated, the toolkits and procedures for preparing the State for defence will be improved."</p> <p>The action also stems from the prime objective "02. Protected Armenia" of Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. As a targeted outcome, we will have "2.4 Highest level of preparedness to resist natural, technogenic and anthropogenic disasters" according to the "assessed professional indicators" of "2.4.3 Level of safety of communities, infrastructures and buildings-constructions and resistance of population."</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are issues relating to the ownership of the territory of the defence structure envisaged as a reserve management point.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The requirements of Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1225-NG and No 1226-NG of 1 December 2016 prescribe the requirements</p>

	<p>for repairing the structure, providing it with necessary property and equipment, and operating through a legislative procedure. 2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is expected to raise the level of management, as well as conservation, protection and performance of duty in the structure during emergency situations and martial law.</p>
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Ministry of Environment	
N/N	
1	<p>Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems</p> <p>1.1 Action “Elaborating a management plan for water basin areas of Sevan and Hrazdan and submitting draft decisions of the Government to the Office of the Prime Minister”»</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The direction “Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 17 of the Water Code have served as a basis for the Action.</p> <p>Elaboration of management plans for water basin areas of Sevan (Lake Sevan with its catchment basin) and Hrazdan (Hrazdan, Marmarik, Kasakh and Amberd Rivers with their catchments) is carried out based on the principle of comprehensive planning, which is targeted at balancing inter-connected mutual relations of water users, including communities, energy, industry and agriculture. The objective of the water basin management plan is to balance the water supply and demand in the water basin</p> <p>1.1.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia, the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 “On the National Programme of the Republic of Armenia for Water”, out of the 6 water basin management plans, 3 were elaborated and approved during 2016-2017 — Araratyan, Southern and Akhuryan Water Basin Management Plans. Sevan and Hrazdan water basin area management plans are in the course of elaboration.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaboration of Sevan and Hrazdan water basin area management plans.</p>

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Drawing up the management plans for Sevan, Hrazdan water basin areas will contribute to specifying the national and strategic water resources in the relevant water basins, balancing water supply and demand, which in turn will lead to efficient and correct management of the water resource, as well as savings of the water resource.

1.2. Action "Elaborating a management plan for the northern water basin area and adopting the Decisions of the Government"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction "Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 17 of the Water Code have served as a basis for the Action.

Elaboration of the management plans for the northern (Debed, Aghstev Rivers with their catchments, and streams of Kura River with their catchments) water basin areas is carried out based on the principle of comprehensive planning, which is targeted at balancing inter-connected mutual relations of water users, including communities, energy, industry and agriculture. The objective of the water basin management plan is to balance the water supply and demand in the water basin

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia, the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Programme of the Republic of Armenia for Water", out of the 6 water basin management plans, 3 were elaborated and approved during 2016-2017 — Araratyan, Southern and Akhuryan Water Basin Management Plans. Sevan and Hrazdan water basin area management plans are in the course of elaboration. Currently, the Northern water basin management plan is not elaborated due to the lack of relevant funds.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaboration and approval of the northern water basin area management plan in case of availability of necessary funding.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Drawing up the northern water basin area management plan will contribute to specifying the national and strategic water resources in the northern water basin, balancing water supply and demand, which in turn will lead to efficient and correct management of the water resource, as well as savings of the water resource.

1.3. Action “Implementing works for installation of on-line water metering systems for automatic management among agricultural and fish-farming water users of Ararat Valley”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 212 of the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1252-N of 5 October 2017 “On defining the procedures and time limits for installation, sealing and operation of water measuring (water metering) devices for the purpose of record-registration of extracted resources of underground freshwater and thermal waters and for record-registration of data on volumes of extracted resources of underground freshwater and thermal waters” have served as a basis for the Action. In the Republic of Armenia, the significant part of underground water resources is formed in Ararat Valley which comprises a part of the Araratyan artesian basin. The majority of agriculture and fish-farming of Armenia is centralised in the Valley. The threat of exhaustion of underground water resources of Ararat Valley is an urgent issue in the field of management and conservation of water resources; taking into account the situation created in Ararat Valley, a necessity to acquire on-line flow-metering equipment and install them in fish-farming economies has arisen, as the latter are large water users of underground water resources.

The purpose of installation of the flow-metering equipment is to monitor on-line the volume of water used by fish-farming economies and undertake relevant actions in case of using more than the water use permit issued.

1.1.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

During 2018, on-line flow-metering equipment were installed in 19 water intake points of fish-farming economies of Ararat Valley, as well as works for organisation of introduction and testing of the computer (SCADA) software package were conducted.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

On-line record-registration of the amount of water actually used by water users will be regulated upon installation, launch of on-line water metering equipment for automatic management within 30 water users of Ararat Valley.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the installation of 30 on-line water metering equipment for automatic management, precise and accurate data on the volume of water used by water users will be available on-line, which will contribute to the more efficient management of underground water resources of Ararat Valley, further leading to restoration of groundwater resources.

1.4. Action “Adopting the Decision of the Government “On defining the requirements for the preliminary treatment of industrial wastewater”

<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The direction “Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point 6 of the Annex to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 589-A of 29 March 2018 “On approving the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘On making amendments and supplements to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia’”, which derives from Article 62.1 of the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia supplemented by Article 7 of Law HO-126-N of 2 March 2018 “On making amendments and supplements to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia” adopted on 2 March 2018 and entered into force in 2020, have served as a basis for the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The area of service of sewerage systems is limited in the Republic of Armenia, by including only 70% of the population in total, of which the accessibility for the urban population is 96.4%, whereas the accessibility for the rural population comprised only 17% (Towards a National Strategy for Sustainable Sanitation in Armenia: Stage 1 Report, OECD, 2014). For the purpose of increasing the efficiency of water resource conservation and use, a necessity to implement large-scale reforms and investments in the sector of water disposal, and especially in the field of wastewater treatment has arisen.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The draft Decision will define a requirement for preliminary treatment of wastewater for industrial wastewater dischargers. The requirements set for industrial wastewater discharged not only into the environment (including water basin) but also the water disposal network will be enshrined. The latter, unlike the legislation in effect, must be aimed at not only ensuring the safety of water basins but also ensuring the efficient and safe operation of water disposal systems.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The adoption of the Decision will increase the level of wastewater treatment, contribute to the conservation of the environment, in particular, water resources, as well as ensuring of the safe operation of water disposal systems.</p> <p>1.5. Action “Submitting the draft Decision of the Government ‘On defining the requirements for the use, collection, transportation, accumulation, processing, utilisation and disposal of wastewater sludge’ to the Office of the Prime Minister”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The direction “Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems” of Section 4.10 of</p>

the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 62.3 of the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point 5 of the Annex to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 589 of 29 March 2018 “On approving the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘On making amendments and supplements to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia’” have served as a basis for the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Approaches to sewerage water management have drastically changed in the world practice during the previous 10-15 years. Where it was previously taken solely as a result of life activities or polluted water, now it is viewed as a resource (and not only water resource) which is subject to utilisation in terms of extracting the useful properties contained therein and using them in various fields.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The draft Decision will define the procedure for the use of wastewater sludge, as well as the requirements for its collection, transportation, accumulation, processing, utilisation and disposal.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Adoption of the Decision will ensure the use and safe disposal of the sludge arisen from wastewater treatment into the environment, and contribute to the conservation and efficient management of water resources.

1.6. Action “Submitting the draft Law ‘On making supplements and amendments to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia’” to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the Roadmap approved for the implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the Member States thereof concluded on 24 November 2017 and ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 11 April 2018 have served as a basis for the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

A draft law will be elaborated for the purpose of approximation to the provisions of Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991

concerning urban waste-water treatment, Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, as well as ensuring the legal ground for elaborating draft Decision of the Government “On approving the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in the field of water resources” and “On defining the method of assessment of the self-cleaning capacity of river”.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of approximation in line with the principles and approaches of the Water Framework Directive, legal regulation of the existing sectoral issues, the draft Law will define new concepts in the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia, in particular, “body of surface water”, “body of groundwater”, “heavily modified water body”, “self-cleaning of water resource”, “vulnerability and adaptation of water resources to climate change” and other concepts, legal regulations related to water use permits, issuance, re-formulation thereof, as well as climate adaptation in the water sector, etc. will be given.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The adoption of the Law will contribute to the approximation in line with the principles and approaches of the Water Framework Directive, ensuring of the ecological sustainability of the environment, as well as the legal regulation of the issues existing in the water sector.

1.7. Action “Increasing the reliability of monitoring data on surface-water resources, providing decision makers with more accurate information, increasing the effectiveness of water resources management”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 19.1 of the Water Code have served as a basis for the Action. The Hydrometeorological Service operating under the “Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” SNCO of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia is the only state institution which carries out quantitative monitoring of surface-water resources and the data of observations of those observation points have an important role from the point of view of effective management of water resources; thus, a need has arisen to carry out re-arming/modernisation of those hydrological observation points.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Tools and equipment used in hydrological observation points are time-worn, the engineering structures are physically worn, which does not give an opportunity to receive more accurate data currently.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

<p>To carry out renovation of engineering structures, as well as install automatic tool equipment and measuring devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modernising hydrological observation points of 5 river basins of Kasakh and Hrazdan (2 water reservoir basins, 3 river basins) and Araks-Surmalu border hydrological observation points, installation of measuring equipment armed with data entry and on-line transfer systems; - Modernising hydrological observation points of Akhuryan basin, the works will be carried out within the scope of Phase 1 of "Akhuryan River Integrated Water Resources Management Programme"; Constructing the Kaps reservoir, approved by point 82.1 of Section of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of Annex 1 to this Decision. <p style="text-align: center;">1.8 Action “Implementing of liquidation or conservation works of deep wells in Ararat and Armavir marzes”</p> <p>1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introducing super effective management systems for effective use and increase of the quality of water resources, including regulation of the process of water disposal and wastewater treatment, conservation and management of the Artesian basin of Ararat and river eco-systems of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>In accordance with Decision of the Minister of Environment "On making amendments to Order of the Minister of Environment No 171-A of 9 June 2020" No 131-A of 11 April 2023, an inter-agency working group was established, which is aimed at record-registering the deep wells of Ararat Valley (Ararat and Armavir marzes), detecting illegal water consumption (How many of them can be brought into the legal field and how many need to be liquidated and/or conserved?)</p> <p>The inter-agency working group created upon Order of the Minister of Environment No 131-A of 11 April 2023, from 21 April 2023 up to 7 July and from 7 September up to 26 October included, inventory-taking of 2387 deep wells was carried out in the administrative territories of 94 settlements of 7 communities of Ararat marz located in Ararat Valley and 74 administrative territories of 7 communities of Armavir marz.</p> <p>The aim of liquidation or conservation of deep wells is to prevent the further depletion and pollution of the underground water resources of Ararat Valley.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The conducted studies show that the process of groundwater depletion continues in Ararat Valley, the groundwater pressures and levels are constantly decreasing, as a result of which the general properties of the groundwater resources are also changing — mineralisation and hardness are increasing. Under such conditions, the exploitation of groundwater will lead to the disappearance of the groundwater fountain zone of the Artesian basin of Ararat and their pollution, and the waters will become impotable.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>
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	<p>For the purpose of regulating the created situation, it is necessary to liquidate or preserve the illegally exploited, unfit for exploitation and unexploited deep wells in Ararat Valley.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Prevention of further depletion of underground water resources of Ararat Valley, saving underground water resources</p>
2.	<p>Conservation, restoration, reproduction, normal development and reasonable use of the eco-system balance and biodiversity of Lake Sevan</p> <p>2.1. Action “Implementing clearing works of buildings and infrastructures left underwater in the areas subject to submergence in the vicinity of Lake Sevan”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The direction “Conservation, restoration, reproduction, normal development and reasonable use of the eco-system balance and biodiversity of Lake Sevan” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and point “a” of Article 11 of the Law “On Lake Sevan” of 2001, pursuant to which it is necessary to exclude the negative water balance of Lake Sevan and ensure the increase to the ecologically necessary level of the Lake, have served as a basis for the Action.</p> <p>Increase of the level of Lake Sevan by 6 meters is envisaged by Law of the Republic of Armenia No 276 “On approving the Annual and Complex Action Plans for Restoration, Conservation, Reproduction and Use of the Eco-System of Lake Sevan”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>During the geodetic and cartographic activities carried out by the Cadastre Committee in 2010, 4729 buildings and constructions lower than the mark 1905.0 m were record-registered, around 850 of which were dismantled during the previous years, and currently there are 3800 buildings and constructions.</p> <p>Taking as a basis sub-point 20 of point 18 of the Annex to Decision of the Prime Minister No 745-L of 11 June 2018, 1679 units of buildings and constructions and infrastructures, with a total area of 68520.31 m², subject to dismantling, their volumes, types were inventory-taken, the preliminary consolidated financial evaluations was drawn up and submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia by the Working Group established for the purpose of implementing works for inventory-taking of buildings and constructions and infrastructures located in the coastal areas of Lake Sevan by the absolute mark 1901.5 meters and subject to dismantling and calculating their volumes, established upon Order of the Minister of Environment No 57-A of 17 February 2020 “On establishing a working group for implementing works for inventory-taking of buildings and constructions and infrastructures located in the coastal areas of Lake Sevan by the absolute mark 1901.5 meters and subject to dismantling and calculating their volumes”.</p> <p>During 2021, “Sevan National Park” SNCO dismantled around 30 units of buildings and constructions located in the coastal areas lower than the mark 1905.0 meters of Lake Sevan.</p>

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Pursuant to sub-point 1 of point 5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1563-N of 18 December 2008, in the first sub-zone (first sub-zone — areas of submergence and flooding as a result of increase of the level of Lake Sevan, prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, which include from the water border of “Sevan National Park” until the absolute mark 1905.0 meters), construction of main objects is prohibited, functional furnishing and landscaping of leisure and service objects is carried out with non-main constructions only, in compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. It is necessary to dismantle buildings and constructions of areas below the mark 1905 in order not to appear under water as a result of increasing the level of the Lake.

Dismantling works will be implemented at the expense of own funds of economic entities and the State Budget.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

Improving coastal areas due to raising the level of water of Lake Sevan, improving the ecological state of the water of the Lake.

2. Action “2.Implementing forest clearing works in the areas submerged and subject to submergence in the vicinity of Lake Sevan”**1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action**

The direction “Conservation, restoration, reproduction, normal development and reasonable use of the eco-system balance and biodiversity of Lake Sevan” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Annual and Complex Action Plans for Conservation, Restoration, Reproduction and Use of the Eco-System of Lake Sevan” adopted on 14 December 2001, whereby it was envisaged to clear 5000 ha of forest-covered areas subject to submergence of the territories of “Sevan National Park”, have served as a basis for the Action. Forest areas that are not cleared from forests and vegetation and are submerged deteriorate the quality of water of the Lake, contribute to water bloom and initiation of the process of rotting. In order to improve the quality of water, prevent the process of rotting of forests as a result of appearing under water, it is necessary to implement forest clearing works in the areas submerged and subject to submergence in the vicinity of Lake Sevan.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

During 2005-2021, around 2200 ha was cleared at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and the contracts concluded between “Sevan National Park” SNCO and natural persons.

Currently, 2800 ha of clearing areas submerged and subject to submergence exist by the mark 1905 meters.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

<p>Re-distribution of the amount of AMD 208,238.5 thousand envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2021 for the Action “Clearing of submerged forest plantings of Lake Sevan”, within the scope whereof it is envisaged to acquire relevant specialised machinery for performing the works for forest clearing and dismantling of constructions at the expense of the SNCO.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Improving the ecological and sanitary condition and water quality of Lake Sevan.</p> <p>2.3. Action “Improving and modernising the system of observations of hydrometeorological and environmental monitoring in the basin of Lake Sevan, improving the quality of forecasts of water resources and the reliability of balance components”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The direction “Conservation, restoration, reproduction, normal development and reasonable use of the eco-system balance and biodiversity of Lake Sevan” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and point 2.1 of the Annex to Decision No 1584-N of 30 September 2021 “On approving the 2022 Annual Action Plan for Conservation, Restoration, Reproduction and Use of the Eco-System of Lake Sevan”, have served as a basis for the Action.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to improve the system for hydrometeorological observation and monitoring of the environment, reliability of the quality and balance components of forecasts of water resources in the basin of Lake Sevan, which is extremely important from the point of view of restoring and conserving the ecological balance of Lake Sevan through installing automatic hydrometeorological stations and evaporimeters from the water surface in the basin of Lake Sevan, ensuring furnishing with modern equipment and methods in the process of monitoring the environmental components in the basin of Lake Sevan, and capacity-building.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>70-80% of the professional tools and devices currently operated in the network of observation of the basin of Lake Sevan are morally and physically worn, and the network strongly needs re-equipment.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Acquisition of 6 automatic hydrometeorological stations and installation in the basin of Lake Sevan and installation of evaporimeters (GGI-3000) in the basin of Lake Sevan for accurate assessment of evaporation from the water surface, acquisition, operation of devices for field studies, sampling observations and means will be carried out.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improvement of drawing up the water balance of Lake Sevan and increase of reliability of balance components, improvement of the quality of forecasts of</p>

water resources of the Lake, improvement and modernisation of capacities for monitoring the environmental eco-system are expected from the implementation of the Action.

The Actions are envisaged to be implemented during 2021-2026, in case of availability of necessary funds.

2.4. Action “Acquiring equipment for clearing works of submerged areas of Lake Sevan”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Conservation, restoration, reproduction, normal development and reasonable use of the eco-system balance and biodiversity of Lake Sevan” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and point 2.7 of Decision No 1584-N of 30 September 2021 whereby the implementation of the Action for the purpose of preventing the deterioration of the quality of water and swamping of the Lake are enshrined, have served as a basis for the Action.

For the purpose of implementing forest clearing works in the areas subject to submergence in the vicinity of Lake Sevan, the Ministry of Environment, acting as Client, concluded the Contract for State Procurement of Performance of Contractor Works for State Needs (hereinafter referred to as “Contract”) with

“Harutyunyan Shin” LLC (hereinafter referred to as “Contractor”) on 2 September 2019.

Within the scope of the Contract, it was envisaged to clear during 2019-2021 750 ha of area subject to submergence, of which it was envisaged to clear 271.0 ha in 2020 in Martuni and Yeranos sections of Martuni Branch and Vardenis and Tsovak sections of Vardenis Branch of “Sevan National Park” SNCO. Whereas clearing works have been performed by the Contractor with certain violations of the obligations assumed under the Contract.

Taking as a basis the indicated circumstance, the Ministry of Environment unilaterally (partially) waived the Contract for Performance of Contractor Works.

Based on the above-stated, the Ministry of Environment undertook to perform the works in question directly through “Sevan NP” SNCO. For that purpose, pursuant to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1133-L of 8 July 2021, re-distribution of the amount of AMD 208,238.5 thousand was done: the process for acquisition of specialised machinery (1 loading and unloading excavator, 1 bulldozer-tractor, 1 self-unloading truck) and special equipment (6 petrol-powered saws) is underway within the scope of the amount of AMD 132,570.0 thousand, and the remaining AMD 25,222.8 thousand was directed to “Sevan National Park” SNCO — for ensuring the operation and service of the above-indicated technical means.

It is envisaged to perform in 2021, through the equipment acquired, according to the preliminary assessments and based on the time limitations, based on the design and estimate documents approved for 2019-2021, to perform works for clearing the areas not cleared as a result of the above-indicated issues (around 50 ha).

It is envisaged to perform clearing works in the later years in progressive paces. For that purpose, the bid of the Ministry of Environment for the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2022 is currently in the stage of revision, within the scope whereof it is envisaged to acquire 2 more units of

machines, as well as the expenses for maintenance and operation of the lifting machine acquired within the scope of the programme “EU4SEVAN” are envisaged.

At the same time, the indicated machines will also be engaged by “Sevan NP” also in the works for dismantling buildings and constructions subject to submergence of the coastal areas of Lake Sevan, which will contribute to the improvement of the current situation of the eco-system of Lake Sevan.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Ministry of Environment has initiated to perform the works in question directly through “Sevan NP” SNCO, for the purpose whereof it is envisaged to perform acquisition of relevant machines. For that purpose, it is envisaged to carry out clearing of the submerged forest plantings of Lake Sevan.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to perform through the equipment acquired, according to the preliminary assessments and based on the time limitations, based on the design and estimate documents approved for 2021 and 2023, works for clearing the areas not cleared as a result of the above-indicated issues.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action:

As a result of the implementation of the Action, machines will be acquired and, at the same time, the machines acquired for the works for clearing the submerged areas of Lake Sevan will also be engaged by “Sevan NP” in the works for dismantling the buildings and constructions subject to submergence of the coastal areas of Lake Sevan.

2.5 Action "Functioning of public beaches in the recreation zone of "Sevan" National Park"

1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Conservation, restoration, reproduction, normal development and reasonable use of the eco-system balance and biodiversity of Lake Sevan" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action and stems from the requirement of functioning public beaches in the recreation zone of "Sevan" National Park and stems from established upon Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 527-N of 28 April 2011, No 752-N of 7 June 2012, No 1122-N of 1 October 2015 and No 1186-N of 13 July 2023.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

12 public beaches are separated in "Sevan" National Park by the above-mentioned decisions of the Government, 7 of which are delegated by competition and have tenants, 5 of them — not yet.

With regard to the 7 public beaches leased:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 beaches are functioning, but there are problems with the quality of service, in particular related to the performance of free services at the proper level; - there are certain problems in the process of improving 4 beaches, providing maintenance services during the beach season, in particular related to the delay in the operation of the beaches. <p>In order to settle the problem, discussions were held with the lessees, during which the current state of the works was discussed and the existing problems were highlighted.</p> <p>The lessees have been informed that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a necessity has arisen to make changes in the concluded contracts for the purpose of establishing requirements for adapting the beaches to persons having disabilities; 2. a strict requirement was set to organise the maintenance of public beaches at a high level and with proper quality; 3. a failure to fulfil the above-mentioned requirements will be the basis for unilateral termination of contracts; 4. a demand has been made to implement the steps to be taken in order to operate the beaches in the fastest way possible. <p>The process of organising tenders for 5 unleased public beaches has started.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of activating the coverage and publicity process of public beaches, the Ministry has initiated to elaborate video, cartographic graphic materials and carry out wide coverage for the purpose of making public beaches more attractive from the point of view of publicising and investments.</p> <p>Due to the above-mentioned, it is envisaged to pursue the works carried out in this regard, to provide services with the established standards and quality of the operational beaches, to eliminate unnecessary delays in the process of operation of the newly-improved beaches.</p> <p>If necessary, to take steps to achieve the final result by revising the requirements prescribed by the contract.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the actions, it is expected to have 12 public beaches in the territory of "Sevan" National Park organised at a high level and of proper quality, accessible to all levels of the public, with new "eco-friendly" approaches and creating a new culture during the beach season.</p>
3.	<p>Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof</p> <p>3.1. Action “Elaborating forest management projects (forest management plans) for the "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO of the Forest</p>

Committee and approving them by an order of the Minister”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 15 of the Forest Code of the Republic of Armenia have served as a basis for the Action. The forest management project (forest management plan) serves as a basis for maintaining forest management, which is a technical document elaborated and approved as a result of forest management. Actions for maintaining forest management for the upcoming 10 years are planned in the forest management plan.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The forest management projects (forest management plans) of the "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO of the Forest Committee of the Ministry of Environment were repealed upon Order of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia No 253-A of 16 November 2017, and currently a need has arisen to elaborate and approve new forest management projects (forest management plans) for all "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO. The absence of forest management plans is a serious hindrance to the sustainable management of forests.

Forest management plans have been elaborated for 9 out of 17 "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO and have been approved in the manner prescribed. The forest management plans for 4 "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO have been elaborated through the funding from the State Budget for 2022, , one of which has already received positive conclusion on the environmental impact assessment and is in the approval stage, and three of them are in the examination stage of the environmental impact assessment. Forest management plans for the remaining 4 branches are currently being elaborated, for which AMD 489261.6 has been allocated from the State Budget.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaborating and approving forest management projects (forest management plans) for all "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Elaboration and approval of forest management plans will allow specifying the borders of forest areas, the current situation of forests and planning the actions for maintaining forest management necessary for the upcoming 10 years.

3.2. “Organising reforestation and afforestation works, including founding of forest nurseries and development of seed economy”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and

reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia has served as a basis for the Action. At the same time, According to the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No. 2318-L, dated 28 December 2023, “On Approving the Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy of the Republic of Armenia (before 2050),” it is planned to have 450,000 hectares of woodlands by 2050.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

It is necessary to have various types of quality planting material for performing reforestation and afforestation works, for which nursery and seed economies must be developed. For the purpose of implementing the obligation assumed, it is envisaged to perform 20000 ha of afforestation works until 2030.

The works are envisaged to be performed at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and other funds not prohibited by law. The average expense for 1 ha of afforestation works will comprise AMD 2000.0 thousand.

There was a greenhouse complex for growing planting material with a closed root system with a total area of 1000 sq. m (500 sq. m + 500 sq. m) in “Hrazdan Forestry” Branch of “Hayantar” SNCO of the Ministry of Environment, where it was possible to grow up to 250000 pieces of seedlings with a closed root system. There are also nurseries in "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO, where bareroot planting material is grown. But it is impossible to meet the whole quantity of planting material with the existing nurseries; hence, it is necessary to expand and develop the nursery economies. It is envisaged to found greenhouse economies with a total area of 1.3 ha in various marzes of the Republic and grow planting material with a closed root system, for which AMD 686000.0 thousand will be required.

Within the scope of programme “Increasing the resistance of forests in Armenia through adaptation due to mitigation measures and expansion of green spaces in rural areas”, in the 3 branches of “Forestry” of “Hayantar” SNCO of the Ministry of Environment, starting from 2022, works on the foundation of 6 modern greenhouse complexes have started, as a result of which, it will be possible to grow about 1 million grow planting materials with a closed root system.

AMD 875743.3 thousand has been actually spent from the State Budget for 2020-2022, whereby afforestation (385 ha) and reforestation (491 ha) works have been performed in "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO of the Ministry of Environment. Besides, within the scope of the compensation programme for damage caused to forestry by “Myler mountain resort” CJSC, about 11 ha of forest cultures were established in 2022.

1715 ha reforestation works were performed in "Forestry" branches of "Hayantar" SNCO in 2020 within the scope of the “Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Mountain Landscapes of North-Eastern Armenia” project in Lori and Tavush Marzes, as well as 3.0 ha of forest cultures were founded in “Kapan Forestry” Branch of "Hayantar" SNCO within the scope of the “Support Program for Protected Areas-Armenia” project.

In 2023, AMD 413,011.7 thousand was allocated from the State Budget for performing reforestation and afforestation works in "Forestry" Branches of "Hayantar" SNCO. It is envisaged to allocate AMD 2,837,103.82 thousand in 2024.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Selecting, designing and organising areas subject to reforestation and afforestation (by taking as a basis the data of the management plan where forest

management plans are available), founding forest nurseries and developing seed economies. For the purpose of obtaining quality planting material in the necessary quantity, greenhouse complexes will be founded in various marzes of Armenia, which will give an opportunity to grow up to 3 million pieces of high-quality planting material with closed root system for various tree types per year.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Obtaining high-quality planting material in a sufficient quantity, expanding forested areas, increasing carbon sequestration, and mitigating the climate change impact.

3. Action “3.Acquiring newest technologies and equipment for forest conservation, reforestation and forest use in the field of forest management”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action-

The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. It is necessary to carry out technical re-arming for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the envisaged , afforestation and forest use works, carrying out timber stocking without damaging the forest, developing side forest use, increasing the own revenues of “Hayantar” SNCO, have served as a basis for the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

As Armenia is a mountainous country and forests are mainly on inclined slopes, the old-fashioned technologies (back from the years of the Soviet Union) used currently do not allow carrying out exploitation of cutting sites in an ecologically safe manner, which leads to various issues.

Afforestation works are also performed mainly by hand, as the areas are on inclined slopes and there are no relevant (tractors operating on large inclinations, etc.) technical means.

For the purpose of protecting the forests from fires, as well as more efficiently carrying out forest management actions , it is necessary to acquire the latest equipment and technology, for which about USD 6.5 million will be required.

Vehicles and equipment in the amount of around AMD 65.0 million were provided to “Hayantar” SNCO within the scope of the 2020-2021 international projects.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Re-arming employees of the forest guard group with modern technical and transportation means, establishing quick fire response teams, etc.

It is envisaged to acquire SUVs of "Pickup" type, drones, GPS and other equipment, devices/sensors sensitive to smoke, sound, heat, video recording

	<p>devices, their service equipment, establish centres for collecting and processing forest fruits and berries, briquette production points, etc..</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Illegal cutting, cases of forest fires will decrease, the effectiveness of the use of forest resources and afforestation works will increase, revenues of the forest management will increase.</p> <p>3.4. Action “Conducting forest pathological studies for the protection of forests from pests and diseases, organising the implementation of biological control against pests and diseases”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 17.1 of the Forest Code of the Republic of Armenia have served as a basis for the Action. The objective of the implementation of the Action is ensuring the effectiveness of forest protection works.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the data of forest pathological studies conducted in spring of 2023, the forest areas infected with pests and diseases comprised about 9000 ha, in addition, there are cases of massive drying of conifer species.</p> <p>Taking into account the multi-year experience in forest pathological studies, it is envisaged to perform works for control against pests and diseases in 9000 ha of forests per year in average. The actual volume of works for the given year will be specified as a result of the forest pathological studies. In 2023, instead of aerial chemical control of pests and diseases, aerial biological control works were performed out in 4120 ha of forested areas of "Hayantar" SNCO, as a result of which, according to the data of forest pathology studies, outbreaks of data pests and diseases have dramatically decreased. In 2024, it is also envisaged to carry out aviation-biological fight works for which, for which AMD 313200.0 thousand is envisaged to allocate from the State Budget.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing exclusively biological control against forest pests and diseases, establishing a relevant laboratory, etc.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Existence of healthy forests.</p> <p>3.5. Action “Maintenance of forest cadastre”</p>
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1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 16 of the Forest Code of the Republic of Armenia have served as a basis for the Action. Maintenance of the forest cadastre is carried out for the purpose of sustainable management of forests, regular registration of quantitative and qualitative changes of forests, as well as providing the Government of the Republic of Armenia, local self-government bodies, stakeholder legal persons and citizens with information on forest lands.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the system for maintaining forest cadastre has not been established yet, as a result whereof there is a large number of inaccuracies and incompliances in the forest and cadastral maps, for the correction whereof the system for forest cadastre will be established. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining the forest cadastre, 1 unit of unmanned aerial vehicle, 8 units of computers, 8 units of laser printers, and 9 units of graphic tabs were acquired through the funding from the State Budget for 2020.

In 2021, the programme for maintenance of forest cadastre was developed through the funding from the State Budget, which was combined with the Forest Management Information System previously developed by the German Agency for International Cooperation.

In 2023, AMD 15,000.0 thousand was allocated for the maintenance of forest cadastre, i. e. ensuring the operation of the national forest information system and establishing the necessary base for maintenance of forest cadastre within the scope of which 109 ha measurement works and maintenance of the electronic system for the management of forests. It is envisaged to allocate AMD 15000 from the State Budget by the 2024 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for the maintenance of forest cadastre, and AMD 3000.0 thousand per year for 2025-2026.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Establishing a basis required for the maintenance of forest cadastre.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Establishing and maintaining a system of forest cadastre.

3.6. Action “State record-registration of forests (national forest inventory and national forest monitoring)”**1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action**

The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic

of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 16 of the Forest Code of the Republic of Armenia have served as a basis for the Action. State record-registration of forests is carried out pursuant to part 3 of Article 16 of the Forest Code of the Republic of Armenia, once 5 years, for the purpose of conservation, protection, restoration of forests, registration of quantitative and qualitative changes thereof, provision of information, defining allowable cutting sites, use, development of forests, planning of other forest management actions, as well as change of targeted or operational significance of forests.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

State record-registration of forests is carried out once 5 years, but has not been carried out since 1993 due to the lack of funds, as well as complete information on forests and forest areas (not all forest managements had forest management plans).

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

State record-registration of forests in Armenia was carried out 30 years ago last time, as a result whereof existing data have lost their relevance, and a necessity to carry out new state record-registration of forests has arisen. But taking into account the fact that state record-registration of forests is carried out taking as a basis forest management projects (forest management plans), it is necessary to carry it out after elaborating forest management plans. It will be necessary to allocate around AMD 80000.0 thousand for the state record-registration of forests.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Existence of information on conservation, protection, restoration of forests, quantitative and qualitative changes thereof.

National forest inventory will promote achieving the following outcomes:

- Area of woodlands
- Composition of tree species and quantitative assessment
- Age stages of groves
- Total wood supplies in forests
- Wood supplies per tree species
- Wood supplies extracted from the forest
- Supply of forest debris
- Species composition and qualitative assessment of saplings
- Types and qualitative assessment of forest lands
- provision on an annual and timely basis of comprehensive, accurate, modern and consistent information on the state, volume and use of Armenian forests.

That information will be used for the following:

- Assessing the impact of national forest policy and changes aimed at sustainable management of forests. Enhancing the effectiveness of forest functions and the delivery of essential ecosystem services.

- International Reports such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the recording of greenhouse gases (GHG) in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Informing citizens about the condition of forests as a key component of living environment.
- Further developing scientific knowledge on forests, as well as assessment methods thereof.

3.7. Action “Increasing the effectiveness of the forest conservation process in the forests and specially protected areas of nature”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction “Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through afforestation and reforestation and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof” of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 21 of the Forest Code, pursuant where to persons maintaining a forest management and forest users shall have the right to conserve forests from arbitrary seizure, illegal cutting, illegal grazing, pollutions, littering and other activities damaging the forest biodiversity prohibited by legislation and violations of the forest legislation, have served as a basis for the Action. Pursuant to Article 23 of the Law "On specially protected areas of nature", the duties of rangers of the legal person carrying out the conservation of the specially protected areas of nature are to ensure the fulfilment of the requirements of the environmental norms and rules defined by the statute of the specially protected areas of nature, to prevent any action that violates the established regime of the specially protected areas of nature.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the conservation of forest and specially protected areas of nature is carried out through rangers who have low social protection and powers, work according to the five-day 8-hour work schedule prescribed by the Labour Code (9⁰⁰-18⁰⁰), have a low level of technical armament, as a result whereof it is impossible to fully perform the conservation of forests.

Article 26 of the current Forest Code prescribes that forest conservation is carried out by the State Forest Service operating in the system of the authorised body of state administration. Concurrently, part 5 of Article 26 of the Forest Code prescribes that the procedure for the activity of the State Forest Service is established by law. Meanwhile, there is a need to completely review the legislative regulations and ensure a unified approach to the conservation of forests and specially protected areas of nature.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

According to the results of the analysis, it was considered appropriate that the proper control of the conservation of forests and specially protected areas of nature is impossible to exercise with the small number of rangers carrying out conservation, because the task of the rangers is not only to disclose violations of forest legislation within scope of their competences prescribed by the legislation, but also to ensure prevention thereof which is possible only in case of 24-hour duty. Therefore, it was proposed to replace the sentence "Availability of a sub-division within the Forest Committee comprised of 30 staff units carrying out 24-hour control over forest conservation for the purpose of prevention and reduction of violations of forest legislation" with the sentence "Adopting Decision of the Government “On the draft Law "On the conservation service of environment of the Republic of Armenia being approved by the

Government" in the "Expected outcome" column of point 3.7 of Annex 1 to Decision of the Government No1902-L of 18 November 2021. Therefore, a unified management of the positions of rangers of "Hayantar" SNCO and SNCO-s conducting management of specially protected areas of nature is envisaged through a general service with duration of 24-hour work time, which will ensure continuous control of the areas and contribute to the timely disclosure and prevention of violations. In general, it is envisaged to completely review the management system.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Ensuring 24-hour conservation of forests and specially protected areas of nature, prevention and decrease of violations of the legislation.

3.8 Action "Reviewing procedures for leasing and/or providing for development of land parcels of state forests, forest land use and specially protected areas of nature"

1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction «Sustainable management of forests — conservation, protection, use of forests and expansion of forested areas through forestation and forest restoration and ongoing strengthening of capacities for the implementation thereof" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action and stems from the requirement prescribed by point 1.1 of Article 77 of the Land Code.

The objective of defining the action is to establish common approaches, principles, environmental requirements, and investment-oriented standards in the process of leasing and/or providing for development of land parcels of state forests, forest land use, as well as specially protected areas of nature, aimed at the implementation of a uniform policy.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, there are two legal acts in force regulating the sector — Decision of the Government "On establishing the procedure for providing state forests and forest lands for use" No 806-N of 24 May 2007 and Decision of the Government "On establishing an inter-agency tender commission for the purpose of leasing and/or providing for development of land parcels specially protected areas of nature and approving the rules of procedure of the inter-agency tender commission" No 1578-N of 18 December 2008. However, there are differences in general regulation in the above-mentioned decisions, while these areas, being areas with high environmental value and limited use regimes, must have specially elaborated general approaches and principles, which must be based on the objective of their environmental and sustainable management.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Conditioned by the above-mentioned, it is recommended to elaborate single unified legal act and repeal the existing regulations, taking as a basis point 1.1 of Article 77 of the Land Code.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the action, single legal act will regulate a process of leasing and/or providing for development of land parcels of state forests, forest land use, as well as specially protected areas of nature, unified approaches will be created, general requirements and conditions will be defined, grounds for long-term and sustainable management corresponding to the environmental status of these areas will be stipulated.</p>
4.	<p>Increasing the effectiveness of the management regimes and control mechanisms in specially protected nature areas, capacity-building of adjacent settlements.</p> <p>4.1. Action "Mapping of specially protected areas of nature and re-registration of rights"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Increasing the effectiveness of the management regimes and control mechanisms of specially protected areas of nature, capacity-building of adjacent settlements" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the requirements of part 5 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On specially protected areas of nature" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>This action is aimed at the implementation of activities of mapping the specially protected areas of nature, drawing up the zoning scheme and adjusting the boundaries of the protection zone thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The functions of specially protected areas of nature must be directed in the nearest future to the increase in effectiveness of preserving unique forests, landscapes and biodiversity, as well as natural and cultural monuments for the benefit of the nature and population.</p> <p>For the purpose of carrying out the activities of obtaining the financial resources for settling the issues, negotiations are being conducted with a number of international institutions /KFW, UNFCCC AF, CNF, WWF, TGS etc./.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The activities are envisaged to be carried out on a competitive basis by the winning organisation, which must carry out the following activities:</p> <p>a/ collection of initial data;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - study of previous forest management and archive materials (estimate survey-forest estimation and plan-mapping) of specially protected areas of nature, current boundaries in the protection zone thereof, analysis of results; - physical inventory-taking and mapping of specially protected areas of nature, economic operators in the protection zone thereof; - collection of information on administrative and economic units of the territories envisaged and boundaries of adjacent community lands;

- obtaining necessary data on the previous land construction and forest management, forestry fund, geodesy mapping activities, inventory-taking and changes in the following period;
 - /b/ adjustment and description of boundaries of specially protected areas of nature and those of internal operational zones;
 - study and description /mapping description/ of specially protected areas of nature, habitats of rare and valuable species of flora and fauna found in the protection zone thereof;
 - studying archive materials and maps, obtaining the copies thereof for the purpose of establishing the cadastre;
 - obtaining information on flora and fauna of specially protected areas of nature from the Botany and Zoology Institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia;
 - field observations and research in the specially protected areas of nature and area of the protection zone thereof;
 - co-ordination of boundaries of specially protected areas with adjacent communities.
- Description of external boundaries of specially protected areas of nature, internal operational zones and protection zones with maps on a scale of 1:25 000.
- /c/ carrying out mapping activities;
 - /d/ application of relevant latest technologies, acquisition and application of equipment and other technical means;
 - /e/ strengthening the boundaries;
 - /f/ preparation of cadastral map of specially protected areas of nature to receive state registration at the State Real Estate Cadastre Committee.
- During the co-operation, the activities with the co-implementing body are bound by the issue of co-ordination of territories and boundaries with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures for elaborating relevant draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and with Real Estate Cadastre Committee for receiving state registration.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the implementation of the action, accurate information will be created both on the 8 specially protected areas of nature — "Sevan" National Park and "Arevik" National Park, "Shikahogh" Reserve, "Plane Grove" Sanctuary, "Boghakar" Sanctuary, "Zangezur" Sanctuary, "Sev Lich" Sanctuary, "Khustup" Sanctuary, and on the habitats of distribution of the representatives of flora and fauna, which will create preconditions for effective conservation of the biodiversity in the above-mentioned areas, development of the adjacent communities, provision of regimes for conservation and use.

4.2. Action "Elaboration of management plans of specially protected areas of nature" and adoption of the Decision of the Government

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Increasing the effectiveness of the management regimes and control mechanisms of specially protected areas of nature, capacity-building of adjacent settlements" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On specially protected areas of nature" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

The action is aimed at sustainable management of specially protected areas of nature through reviewing the management plans and elaborating new management plans.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, management plans of a number of specially protected areas of nature are either out of date, or do not have management plans at all, which hinders the effective management of the given territory. In particular, the management plan of "Sevan" National Park was envisaged for 2007-2011, the management plan of "Arpi Lake" National Park was envisaged for 2011-2015, etc.

Section 3 of Decision of the Minister of Environment N 392-A of 22 December 2015 "On approving the methodical guide for elaborating the management plans" stipulates that

- Compilation of draft management plans is proceeded by the comprehensive study of specially protected areas of nature (existing or being created), including the protection zone thereof, collection and analysis of available information;
- During the elaboration of the management plan, information is being summarised and analysed on the territorial structure of specially protected areas of nature, organisational features, infrastructures, financial activity (financial volumes and sources, cash outflows and inflows), strengths and weaknesses of organisation and activity of specially protected areas of nature during the last 5 years, main successes and failures, the reasons thereof, local self-government bodies and interrelations and co-operation with the population of settlements bordering the specially protected areas of nature;
- During the elaboration of management plan, the following is carried out:
 - o analysis of the current state of ecosystems and natural facilities;
 - o determination of issues hindering the development of specially protected areas of nature and preservation of biodiversity and historical and cultural heritage;
 - o determination of possibilities of development of the territory and ways of management improvement, taking into consideration the existing resources and actual situation;
 - o elaboration of ways and methods for settling the existing issues or for mitigating or eliminating the threats.

Meeting the mentioned requirements implies involvement of financial resources.

In this stage, it is impossible to assess the resources necessary for the implementation of the action, since they depend on the type and volumes of the actions to be taken in each facility. Activities are carried out aimed at involving donor organisations and ensuring financial resources for the implementation of the action.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to analyse the existing issues of the specially protected areas of nature, elaborate management plans for protecting those specially protected areas of nature the management plans whereof are out of date, review and, upon necessity, revise the management plans operating currently.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Existence of management plans for 8 specially protected areas — "Sevan" National Park and "Arevik" National Park, "Shikahogh" Reserve, "Plane Grove" Sanctuary, "Boghakar" Sanctuary, "Zangezur" Sanctuary, "Sev Lich" [Black Lake] Sanctuary, "Khustup" Sanctuary — until the end of 2023.

4.3. Action "Submitting the new draft Law "On specially protected areas of nature" to the Office of the Prime Minister"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction "Increasing the effectiveness of the management regimes and control mechanisms of specially protected areas of nature, capacity-building of adjacent settlements" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as modernisation and compliance particularly with the international criteria adopted by the "International Union for Conservation of Nature" (IUCN) served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

As a result of adopting the new draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On specially protected areas of nature" the relations of creating, conserving, using and managing the specially protected areas of nature will be regulated.

The action is aimed at identifying the discrepancies of the regulation of the law in effect, bringing the law into compliance with the requirements of international criteria both in terms of management and creation.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Elaborating the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On specially protected areas of nature" is conditioned by the following gaps of the law in effect:

- objectives and grounds for creating the specially protected areas of nature are missing in the law;
- the principles of managing the specially protected areas of nature are not stated clearly;
- the issues of categories of specially protected areas of nature are missing;
- the classification of a natural monument, criteria for the establishment and preservation regime are missing;

- the regime of preservation of the sanctuary is missing;
- the principles of managing the protection zone, ecological corridor and ecological network, as well as the preservation regime are missing;
- issues of managing the establishment and management of biosphere reserve are missing.

Besides, there are discrepancies and contradictions between the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On specially protected areas of nature" and other legal acts.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The new draft Law "On specially protected areas of nature" recommends to eliminate the gaps of the law in effect, stipulate new regulations, in particular, the goals and grounds for the creation of specially protected areas of nature. It is recommended to bring the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On specially protected areas" in line with international standards, in particular, enshrining grounds for creating Category 5 (protected landscape) of specially protected areas of nature defined by the "International Union for Conservation of Nature" (IUCN), enshrining legal grounds aimed at the involvement of local self-government bodies in the processes of managing the specially protected areas of nature. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure is a co-implementing body of the action, since the draft will envisage to also involve the local self-government bodies in the process of managing some specially protected areas of nature.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Availability of the law in line with international criteria and modern social relations, wherethrough the processes of managing the specially protected areas of nature will become more effective.

4.4. Implementation of the action "4.Reinforcing the adaptation capacity of ecosystems and communities adjacent to specially protected areas"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The direction "Increasing the effectiveness of the management regimes and control mechanisms of specially protected areas of nature, capacity-building of adjacent settlements" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the obligation of Section "Climate Change" of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

The insufficient level of the use of soil and water resources (bad social conditions do not allow majority of the population to use remote pastures and grasslands), climate change are added to the restrictions of using the specially protected areas of nature enshrined in the Law, and as a result, the natural and man-made pressure on the ecosystems (forests, neighbouring rural pastures and grasslands, water areas, etc.) adjacent to the communities is considerably increasing.

The degradation of natural ecosystems relatively close to communities accelerates under these conditions, and they lose the adaptation to climate change. On the other hand, the observed climate changes (temperature rise, reduction of precipitation, increase in frequency of heat waves, floods and hail, etc.) reduce the quantity of agricultural product, the quality falls off and the living standard of the population decreases.

The action is aimed at reducing the vulnerability of communities adjacent to the "Khosrov Forest" State Reserve and "Dilijan" National Park to climate risks, strengthen the adaptive capacities of the sector of agriculture in those territories, reinforce institutional and planning capabilities, implement actions of adaptation to climate change in communities.

From this perspective, it is necessary to elaborate adaptive strategic actions, which will reinforce the level of life support in communities through introducing climate-smart agricultural technologies, improving the value chain of the target product, strengthening planning capacities by preventing further soil degradation. The plan ensures the interrelation of the idea of achieving neutral soil degradation and increase in adaptation to climate change.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Reduction of incomes received from agriculture and animal farming does not allow some group of residents to use enough gas and electricity for household needs. Wood and dried manure are used as fuel. There are 2 main negative impacts in these conditions:

- the pressure on the forest ecosystem is growing, as a result whereof the climatic-regulating and water-accumulating qualities of the forest are reducing. As a result of cuttings, glades, sparse plots, inexpensive shrubs that are not typical of the ecosystem emerge, where the germination of seeds of tree species typical of the forest and development of a new forest is highly deteriorating. The ecosystem is gradually weakening and losing the adaptation to climate change.
- volumes of the use of organic fertilisers in agriculture are reducing.

The qualitative characteristics of soil are deteriorating gradually and very often they are left without cultivation, are degraded turning into semi-desert soil types or those with very sparse grass.

Self-government bodies of communities, not having enough financial resources, are not able to implement actions to increase the energy-saving (building modern greenhouses with light constructions for production of fruits, solar dryers of herbal medicine, seedlings of vegetable crops) and volumes of product (repair of irrigation system, diversification of agriculture, renovation of field roads, building irrigation points in pastures, etc.) aimed at raising the sustainability of natural ecosystems and agricultural landscapes.

These and similar other actions will create alternative opportunities for residents and local self-government bodies to receive income, as a result whereof the pressure on natural ecosystems will reduce and they may adapt to the climate change more effectively.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Application of community-based smart agricultural practices and reduction of climate risk vulnerability in the degraded areas of the communities adjacent to "Khosrov Forest" State Reserve and "Dilijan" National Park, strengthening value chains of agricultural production, transfer of climate-smart technologies to

communities, strengthening the awareness raising, planning, monitoring and decision making potential of climate-smart practice for agriculture management.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The action will contribute to the elaboration of adaptive strategic actions, introduction of climate-smart agricultural technologies, improvement of value chain of the target product, increase in the level of life support in communities through strengthening planning capacities, prevention of soil degradation, introduction of new saving technologies for irrigation water, increase in effectiveness of natural feed lands, increase in yield of agricultural plants and diversification of incomes of the population.

The action ensures the interrelation of the idea of achieving neutral soil degradation and increase in adaptation to climate change. In particular:

- restoration of vegetative covers in degraded pastures and grasslands and the adaptation thereof to the climate change will increase;
- necessary amount of winter feed stuff will be created, in case of which it will be possible to reduce the pressure on pastures and other ecosystems typical of the territory;
- construction of irrigation points will improve the conditions of animal behaviour and milking capacity will increase;
- improvement in supplying irrigation water and application of new saving technologies will provide the opportunity to increase the yield of crops and use the majority of arable lands;
- cattle-breeders and farmers will receive additional incomes;
- solar greenhouses of general use will contribute to the cultivation of seedlings of new drought-resistant crops greatly demanded in market and provision thereof to peasants. In summer, vegetable will be grown in those greenhouses, a part whereof will be sold, and the other part will be provided to the kindergarten and school;
- solar dryers of general use will provide the opportunity to quickly dry fruits, berries, herbal medicine and plant species used in tea having great demand in the market, also by selling them in autumn and winter;
- repair of track roads leading to pastures, grasslands and arable lands will make the hardly accessible territories accessible and it will be possible to increase the effectiveness of restoration of more degraded ecosystems;
- opportunities will be demonstrated in 3 communities for using those sections of ecosystems /setting up plantation of rosehip or other berries, planting orchards with drip irrigation/, which have lost their adaptation and cannot recover naturally;
- opportunities for achieving land degradation neutrality will be demonstrated.

5.	Conservation of biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registration of objects of fauna and flora
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5.1. Action “Adopting Decision on approval by the Government of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Fauna"”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Conservation of biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registration of objects of fauna and flora" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, obligation of Section "Environment" of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement served as a basis for the implementation of the action, as well as the necessity for adopting the Law (hereinafter referred to as "Law") stems from the requirement of bringing it into compliance with the international requirements and EU directives, harmonisation of the domestic legislation regulating the framework, regulating the legal relations of keeping and using the wild animals in captive and semi-captive conditions, including animals registered in the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Based on the requirement of Protocol Decision N 54 "On approving the strategy in the fields of conservation, protection, re-production and use of biodiversity and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia" a process of elaborating the Law has been undertaken for the purpose of defining mechanisms for assessment of biological resources and determination of the quantities subject to use, the procedure for granting permission for keeping animals in captive and semi-captive conditions and record-registration thereof and regulating the rights to use bioresources.

The Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement ratified on 11 April 2018 is also a highly important fact. Within the scope of this, a necessity has arisen to undertake measures to comply with the domestic legislation of the Republic of Armenia and EU directives.

Following the publication of a scandalous article on the miserable condition of animals kept at Gyumri Private Zoo published in the international press (Daily Mail) in 2015. A working group (composed of representatives of the Ministry, the public sector and international organisations) was created upon Order of the Minister of Environment NS-A of 14 January 2016, which analysed the existing gaps in the field of keeping wild animals in captive conditions and presented a Package of Recommendations for the settlement of the issue.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to make relevant amendments to the relevant articles of the Law aimed at making the process thereof for keeping wild animals more regulated, it is envisaged to define transitional provisions, whereby, after adopting the Law, persons who keep wild animals in captive conditions (regardless of the existence of a document confirming the acquisition of the animal) are given a period of 12 months to come and receive permission for keeping them from the authorised body, as well as to provide the information on record-registration thereof to the authorised body.

Through the amendments recommended, it is also envisaged to regulate the relevant articles of the Law relating to the types of use of fauna objects for the purpose of regulating the process of use and reducing administration. There is also a requirement to bring into compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the word "exclusive " must be removed from the sentence "The fauna of the Republic of Armenia shall be the exclusive property of the state" in the preamble of the law in effect.

There is also a necessity for correcting certain concepts used in the law in effect and adding a number of new concepts.

The co-implementing organisations must assist the activities of elaborating the draft.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Existence of law in line with international requirements and EU directives, wild animals in captive and semi-captive conditions, including clarification of process for keeping animals registered in the Red Book of Animals of the Republic of Armenia, regulation of the process of using objects of fauna and reduction of administration. Certain concepts used in the Law have been revised, a number of new concepts have also been added, whereabout provisions have been included in the Law.

5.2. Action “Adopting Decision on approval by the Government of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora"”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Conservation of biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registration of objects of fauna and flora" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, obligation of Section "Environment" of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement served as a basis for the implementation of the action, as well as the necessity of adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "Law") "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora" stems from the requirement of bringing it into compliance with the international requirements and EU directives, harmonisation of the domestic legislation regulating the field, regulating the legal relations of using the objects of flora, including the plants registered in the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Based on the requirement of Protocol Decision N 54 "On approving the strategy in the fields of conservation, protection, re-production and use of biodiversity and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia" a process of elaborating the Law has been undertaken for the purpose of defining mechanisms for assessment of biological resources and determination of the quantities subject to use, regulating the laws to use bioresources, processes of export and import.

The Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement ratified on 11 April 2018 is also a highly important fact. Within the scope of this, a necessity has arisen to undertake measures to comply with the domestic legislation of the Republic of Armenia and EU directives.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Through the amendments recommended, it is envisaged to regulate the relevant articles of the Law relating to the types of use of flora objects for the purpose of regulating the process of use, reducing administration, as well as regulating the processes of export and import thereof.

<p>The co-implementing organisations must assist the activities of elaborating the draft.</p> <p>There is also a necessity for correcting certain concepts used in the law in effect and adding a number of new concepts.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Existence of law in line with international requirements and EU directives, regulation of the process of using the objects of flora, including the plants registered in the Red Book of Plants of the Republic of Armenia, as well as reduction of administration. Certain concepts used in the Law have been revised, a number of new concepts have also been added, whereabouts provisions have been included in the Law.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5.3. Action "Record-registration of objects of fauna and flora"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Conservation of biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registration of objects of fauna and flora" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora" and Article 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fauna" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>The main objective of the action is the organisation of the state record-registration of flora and fauna in the territory of the Republic of Armenia. In the stage of carrying out activities, it is envisaged to organise and conduct studies and record-registration of flora and fauna, including large groups more vulnerable in terms of use, herbal medicine, edible plants and edible mushrooms, large and small mammals, birds, fishes and crayfish according to the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, which will include activities of species composition, prevalence, mapping, as well as resource assessment, formation of electronic database, establishment of cadastre to the extent possible.</p> <p>Based on the results of the above-mentioned record-registration, it will only be possible to ensure the scientifically substantiated continuous use and re-production of flora and fauna, form the cadastre of flora and fauna and create preconditions for the implementation of monitoring, review the list of species of flora and fauna involved in the Red Book.</p> <p>As a result of the record-registration of flora and fauna, it will also be possible to reveal the quantitative and qualitative changes of habitats and inhabitation sites of species of flora and fauna.</p> <p>The requirement of conducting record-registration is enshrined in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora" and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fauna", according whereto state record-registration of flora must be conducted no later than once every ten years and state record-registration of fauna — no later than once every five years.</p> <p>However, a unified state record-registration of flora and fauna in the territory of the Republic of Armenia has never been carried out. Only within the scope of scientific topics, separate thematic studies have been carried out by the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, State University of the Republic of Armenia and other organisations, which also need to be integrated, consolidated and</p>
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regulated.

Besides, the Red Book of Plants and Animals of the Republic of Armenia is compiled in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora" and Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fauna", taking as a basis the results of the state record-registration of flora and fauna and it is already 10 years since the last Red Book has been compiled. The EU "Biodiversity and Sustainable Local Development-Armenia" programme (KfW), as well as other measures not prohibited by law may become a possible/ potential financial source for carrying out activities of record-registration of flora and fauna.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Flora and fauna are one of the key sources supporting the economy of the country, particularly in terms of agriculture and recreation, as well as provision of raw materials to the sectors of healthcare and other industrial sectors. However, the use of flora and fauna has mostly taken place spontaneously in the last decade, without taking into consideration the natural potential of re-production of bioresources and necessary preconditions for the provision thereof.

From this perspective, a great importance is attached to the implementation of record-registration, as well as formation and maintenance of state cadastre based on the data received, which, in its turn, will provide the opportunity to regulate the quantities already subject to use through reliable information on diversity of flora and fauna of the territory of the Republic of Armenia, resources thereof, quantitative and qualitative changes of habitats and inhabitation sites, as well as to review the Red Book, since it has been compiled in 2007-2009 based on the scientific research conducted by the specialists of the Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences, Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of the National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan State University (ground: Red Book of Plants and Animals). More than 10 years have passed since the implementation of these activities, and consequently the implementation of record-registration will be a key requirement and result with regard to the review of the Red Book.

Protocol Decision of the sitting of 10 December 2015 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N54 "On approving the strategy in the fields of conservation, protection, re-production and use of biodiversity and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N975-L of 13 August 2009 "On programme of state record-registration of fauna and flora of the Republic of Armenia" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N974-L of 13 August 2009 "On programme of state record-registration of flora of the Republic of Armenia" attached importance to the necessity of record-registration.

Thus:

The implementation of record-registration of flora and fauna of marzes of the Republic of Armenia will contribute to the establishment, maintenance of state cadastres of flora and fauna, as well as will serve as a basis for the implementation of monitoring of flora and fauna, provide the grounds for reviewing the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The activities of record-registration of flora and fauna are envisaged to be carried out along with the specialists of the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan State University which have functions for conducting specialised, scientific-research studies of the sector, especially that the

activities of creating the Red Book operating in the Republic of Armenia have been carried out through them, as well as through "Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Centre" SNCO of the Ministry of Environment.

Thus:

Field studies on the state of flora and fauna of the Republic of Armenia, including widely used plants/herbs, will be conducted according to marzes of the Republic of Armenia, through the above-mentioned organisations, for the purpose of settling the following issues:

determination of composition of species;

prevalence, mapping /GIS/,

record-registration of resources, existence of substantiations on the quantities subject to use;

review of the list of species included in the Red Book;

summary of the results of record-registration and formation of electronic database, establishment of cadastre. The following are the key priorities and steps:

- Existence of modernised, reliable and co-ordinated information database on the state of flora and fauna of the Republic of Armenia, built through the collection of baseline data, conduction of field studies.
- Creation of the electronic data information system, formation/improvement of the cadastre, ensuring maintenance thereof.

Creation of preconditions for preservation and sustainable management of habitats, inhabitation sites of flora and fauna of the Republic of Armenia.

Regulation of quantities of flora and fauna of the Republic of Armenia subject to use. Provision of preconditions for monitoring.

Providing grounds for reviewing the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia based on the results of the record-registration of flora and fauna of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of implementing actions stemming from the priorities presented, the Republic will have the simultaneous, complete description of flora and fauna of marzes, including substantiations on the resources and quantities subject to use, as well as flora and fauna information system operating effectively based on international standards and providing targeted information, formed flora and fauna cadastre, reliable grounds for reviewing the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia.

5.4. Action

"Carrying out activities on the assessment of animals that are objects of amateur hunting met in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, fish

and crab supplies in the Lake Sevan and its catchment basin”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Conservation of biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registration of objects of fauna and flora" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Articles 23 and 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fauna" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

One of the main objectives of the implementation of the programme of record-registration of fauna, particularly of animals being the object of industrial and amateur hunting in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Conducting field studies of marzes of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of settling the following issues:

- determination of composition of species;
- prevalence, mapping /GIS/,
- record-registration of resources, existence of substantiations on the quantities subject to use;
- review of the list of species included in the Red Book;
- summary of the results of record-registration and formation of electronic database;
- formation/improvement of cadastre;
- provision of information to the interested parties;
- public awareness.

Carrying out activities is mainly targeted at contributing to the formation/improvement/ and maintenance of state cadastre of fauna through carrying out the record-registration of species of fauna of marzes of the Republic of Armenia, particularly of animals being the object of industrial and amateur hunting, as well as at creating preconditions to carry out the monitoring of fauna, approve the quantities for use, review the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia, thus reducing the negative impact on fauna.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Unified state record-registration of fauna has not been carried out in the territory of the Republic of Armenia. Moreover, it may be stated that a unified and simultaneous record-registration — according to marzes — in the whole territory of the country has never been carried out. Only within the scope of scientific topics, separate thematic studies have been carried out by the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan State University and other organisations, which also need to be integrated, consolidated and brought together.

Fauna is one of the key sources supporting the economy of the country, particularly in terms of agriculture and recreation, as well as provision of raw materials to

the sectors of healthcare and other industrial sectors. However, the use of fauna has mostly taken place spontaneously in the last decade, without taking into consideration the natural potential of re-production of bioresources and necessary preconditions for the provision thereof.

From this perspective, a great importance is attached to the implementation of record-registration of fauna, particularly of animals being the object of industrial and amateur hunting, as well as formation and maintenance of state cadastre based on the data received, which, in its turn, will provide the opportunity to regulate the quantities already subject to use through reliable information on diversity of fauna of the territory of the Republic of Armenia, resources thereof, quantitative and qualitative changes of inhabitation sites.

The requirement of carrying out record-registration is enshrined in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fauna", according whereeto, state record-registration of fauna must be carried out regularly, not later than every five years, and in certain cases upon the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Law also envisages the possibility of conduct of studies /Article 10/ for the purpose of state record-registration by the authorised state body carrying out state record-registration of fauna, through state funding, formation and installation. Protocol Decision of the sitting of 10 December 2015 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 54 "On approving the strategy in the fields of conservation, protection, re-production and use of biodiversity and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N975-N of 13 August 2009 "On programme of state record-registration of fauna of the Republic of Armenia" attached importance to the necessity of record-registration.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The activities presented are envisaged to be carried out along with the experts of the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan State University which have functions for conducting specialised, scientific-research studies of the sector, and with other experts having professional qualifications, especially that the activities of creating the Red Book operating in the Republic of Armenia have been carried out through them. For the purpose of carrying out the activities envisaged and settling existing issues, it is envisaged to implement the following actions:

- Collection of initial data, field studies according to the existence of modernised, reliable and co-ordinated information on the fauna of marzes of the Republic of Armenia;
- Analysis of results of record-registration of fauna, preparation of substantiations on the quantities subject to use;
- Establishment of an electronic data information system, formation/improvement of the cadastre, maintenance ensuring.
- Provision of information to the interested parties and dissemination of information accessible to the public.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the Plan, it will be possible to provide the persons carrying out the management of bioresources with the basic information necessary for adopting relevant decisions, including the complete GIS maps of prevalence of animals that are objects of industrial and amateur hunting to determine the quantities of use of industrial and hunting animals, and with opportunity to organise and conduct monitoring thereof later in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as assist the continuous sustainable management of industrial and hunting animals widely used in the territory of the Republic

of Armenia, by contributing to the loss of prevention and conservation of biodiversity, assisting the introduction of principles of sustainable management of bioresources.

Sustainable use of species of fauna will be carried out based on the precise information on the bioresources.

Electronic information system will be established, it will be possible to form a cadastre system.

5.5 Action “Conducting studies of widely used plants/herbal medicine, edible plants/in the territory of the Republic”

1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action.

Direction "Conservation of biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registration of objects of fauna and flora" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora" served as a basis for the implementation of the action. One of the main objectives of carrying out the programme of record-registration of flora in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, particularly of groups more vulnerable in terms of use — herbal medicine, edible plants — is conducting field studies according to the marzes of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of settling the following issues.

- determination of composition of species;
- prevalence, mapping /GIS/;
- record-registration of resources, existence of substantiations on the quantities subject to use;
- review of the list of species included in the Red Book;
- summary of the results of record-registration and formation of electronic database;
- formation/improvement of cadastre;
- provision of information to the interested parties;
- public awareness.

Carrying out activities is mainly targeted at contributing to the formation/improvement/ and maintenance of state cadastre of flora through carrying out the record-registration of species of flora of marzes of the Republic of Armenia, as well as at creating preconditions to carry out the monitoring of flora, approve the quantities for use, review the Red Book of the Republic of Armenia, thus reducing the negative impact on flora.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Unified state record-registration of flora has not been carried out in the territory of the Republic of Armenia. Moreover, it may be stated that a unified and

simultaneous record-registration — according to marzes — in the whole territory of the country has never been carried out. Only within the scope of scientific topics, separate thematic studies have been carried out by the Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan State University and other organisations, which also need to be integrated, consolidated and brought together.

Flora is one of the key sources supporting the economy of the country, particularly in terms of agriculture and recreation, as well as provision of raw materials to the sectors of healthcare and other industrial sectors. However, the use of flora has mostly taken place spontaneously in the last decade, without taking into consideration the natural potential of re-production of bioresources and necessary preconditions for the provision thereof.

From this perspective, a great importance is attached to the implementation of record-registration of flora, as well as formation and maintenance of state cadastre based on the data received, which, in its turn, will provide the opportunity to regulate the quantities already subject to use through reliable information on diversity of flora of the territory of the Republic of Armenia, resources thereof, quantitative and qualitative changes of habitats.

The requirement of carrying out record-registration is enshrined in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On flora", according whereeto, state record-registration of flora must be carried out regularly, not later than every ten years, and in certain cases upon the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Law also envisages the possibility of conduct of studies /Article 10/ for the purpose of state record-registration by the authorised state body carrying out state record-registration of flora, through state funding, formation and installation. Protocol Decision of the sitting of 10 December 2015 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 54 "On approving the strategy in the fields of conservation, protection, re-production and use of biodiversity and the National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N974-N of 13 August 2009 "On programme of state record-registration of flora of the Republic of Armenia" attached importance to the necessity of record-registration.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues.

The activities presented are envisaged to be carried out along with the experts of the Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan State University which have functions for conducting specialised, scientific-research studies of the sector, and with other experts having professional qualifications, especially that the activities of creating the Red Book operating in the Republic of Armenia have been carried out through them.

For the purpose of carrying out the activities envisaged and settling existing issues, it is envisaged to implement the following actions:

- Collection of initial data, field studies according to the existence of modernised, reliable and co-ordinated information on the flora of marzes of the Republic of Armenia;
- Analysis of results of record-registration of flora, preparation of substantiations on the quantities subject to use;
- Establishment of an electronic data information system, formation/improvement of the cadastre, maintenance ensuring;
- Provision of information to the interested parties and dissemination of information accessible to the public.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the implementation of the Programme, it will be possible to provide the persons carrying out the management of bioresources with the basic information necessary for adopting relevant decisions — complete GIS maps of plant species prevalence, quantities of use — and with opportunity to organise and conduct monitoring thereof later in the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as assist the continuous sustainable management of flora in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, by contributing to the loss of prevention and conservation of biodiversity, assisting the introduction of principles of sustainable management of bioresources.

Sustainable use of plant species will be carried out based on the precise information on the bioresources.

Electronic information system will be established, it will be possible to form a cadastre system.

5.6. Action “Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on draft Law "On making amendments to the Tax Code" being approved by the Government”

1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the action

Directions "Conserving biodiversity and ensuring biosafety, record-registering objects of fauna and flora" and "Improving the existing economic mechanisms for environmental protection through the introduction of the principle of adequate compensation for the damage caused, as well as the implementation of a number of legislative and institutional changes aimed at prevention, mitigation and neutralisation" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Government of the Republic of Armenia serve as a basis for the implementation of the action.

In accordance with part 1 of Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, the State shall promote the preservation, improvement and restoration of the environment, the reasonable utilisation of natural resources, guided by the principle of sustainable development and taking into account the responsibility before future generations. Taking into account the existing problems in the use of biological resources, it is necessary to take certain measures for the purpose of excluding their over-exploitation. Use of biological resources within the territory of the Republic of Armenia must be carried out taking into account their true environmental and economic value, scientifically-based permissible limits for use and the possibilities of reproduction.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In accordance with Article 199 of the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia, natural use fees are envisaged for the use of biological resources to ensure the application of "the user pays" principle. However, the rates of natural use fees are quite low and do not correspond to the real economic value of the resource and therefore do not sufficiently have impact on the environmental behaviour of economic entities. The existing low rates of natural usage charges do not provide an opportunity to use them more efficiently in Armenia as a regulatory tool to reduce negative impacts on the environment and ensure efficient (sustainable) use of natural resources.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

	<p>Elaborating and approving draft decision on making amendments and supplements to the Tax Code, implementing a review of the rates of natural use fees for the use of biological resources.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action will contribute to the sustainable management of the biodiversity, ensuring the prevention of over-exploitation and illegal use of biodiversity within the context of Objective 15 of the sustainable development.</p>
6.	<p>Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change</p> <p>6.1. Action “Adopting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the National Action Plan on Adaptation of Climate Change and the list of actions for 2026-2030”"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Article 7 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>Raising the level of resistance of the country to climate change through introducing best practices for adaptation of climate change in marzes and different sectors of economy, it is in the centre of attention both at global and national levels and stems from the requirement of Article 7 of the Framework Convention On Climate Change and Paris Agreement — inclusion of the process of resistance to and adaptation planning of climate change at all levels.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia is a country highly exposed to the consequences of climate change and the co-ordinated implementation of actions aimed at the adaptation to the negative consequences of climate is necessary for reducing the damages caused to the population and economy due to climate change.</p> <p>All the sectors of the Government Policy, which are deemed to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, must be specified and built-in the process of climate change adaptation to ensure greater precision, balance and direction of the effective implementation of the actions for adaptation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>This action is aimed at continuous guidance of the National Adaptation Programme, which was approved as an initial document by Decision N 749-L of 13 May 2021. Being a road map, the new 2025-2030 programme will provide the opportunity to identify, settle and review national adaptation needs, issues, priorities and necessary resources. It will also be as a normal continuation of forming and introducing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is expected to form a necessary mechanism for involvement of National Adaptation Programme and proper implementation of international obligations</p>

assumed by the country in the processes of territorial administration and local self-governance, sector-specific policy and financial planning.

6.2. Action” Adopting the draft Decision of the Government “On approving “Commitments set at the national level of the Republic of Armenia for 2026-2035 under the Paris Agreement “On Climate Change””

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action, as well as it stems from the requirements of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement "On Climate Change".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

During the 19th Conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Warsaw in 2013, the Parties were called upon to prepare their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) ahead of the Paris Agreement. In 2015, the Republic of Armenia submitted its INDC approved by Protocol Decision N41 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 10 September 2015 to the Secretariat of the Convention.

In 2021, Armenia has reviewed its "2021-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the Paris Agreement", which has been approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N610-L of 22 April 2021. The 2021 review is the first among the regular reviews and revisions envisaged in further stages. Every other NDC must "imply progress" and "reflect the highest possible ambition". Each stage of submitting NDC will be followed by the global inventory-taking being carried out once in 5 years, after which the countries will be recommended to re-submit their NDCs, or elaborate a new NDC, reflecting the results recorded through the last global inventory-taking and recommendations made, as well as in line with current scientific achievements.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Reasons serving as a basis for reviewing NDC are diverse. They may include political proclamations on increasing ambitions, or willingness to comply with the NDC guidelines adopted during the 24th meeting of parties in Katowice, or the necessity of reviewing initial data, which may be changed after 2021.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of adopting the Draft, proper implementation of the commitment assumed by the Republic of Armenia under the Paris Agreement will be ensured.

6.3. Action “Submitting the draft Decision of the Government “On approving the long-term (by 2050) low-carbon development strategy of the Republic of Armenia under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change” to the Office of the Prime Minister”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action, as well as it stems from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Decision of the Government N610-L of 22 April 2021 on approving the "2021-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the "Paris Agreement".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

For the purpose of actively participating in the global efforts aimed at the low-carbon development, proper implementation of international commitments assumed with regard to mitigating climate change, integrating our country into the objectives of sustainable development, putting the sustainability and well-being of citizens at the core of economic policy and taking into consideration the European practice, it is envisaged to elaborate a Long-Term Low Carbon Policy.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The Low-Carbon Strategy is envisaged to increase the quantity of electromobility in the country, proportion of renewable energy, adding on energy saving actions and LED lighting, circular economy, etc.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

It is expected to have Precise Low-Carbon Development Strategy in the sectors of transport, energy supply, industry, waste management, due to which, it will be possible to weaken the man-made pressure on the environment, contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

6.4. Action "Establishing the National Framework of Transparency of Armenia under the Framework Convention "On Climate Change" and the Paris Agreement"

1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action, as well as it stems from the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia, in particular, from decisions adopted by the parties of the Framework Convention "On Climate Change" and the requirement of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The action is aimed at creating institutional and technical capacities of transparency for implementation of the Paris Agreement in accordance with general conditions, procedures and guidelines. The Effective Transparency Framework will help recognise the investments necessary for the effective mitigation and adaptation and link them to priorities of national policy.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The effective operation of the Transparency Framework will contribute to the following:

- ✓ collection of relevant indicators of progress of objectives for sustainable development and compilation of reports;
- ✓ increase in effectiveness of processes with reduction of coincidences and duplicates of climate actions;
- ✓ improvement of management, by providing decision-makers with data and information for following the progress and effectiveness;
- ✓ participation of the public in the process of implementing the Framework Convention on Climate Change through providing equal information.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In accordance with point 123 of the roadmap of implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N666-N of 1 June 2019, Armenia has undertaken to establish Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) by 2026, form a process of developing and transferring technologies aimed at settling the issues of climate change. The establishment of the MRV system will be a constituent of the above-mentioned action.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

It is expected to elaborate sector-specific samples and guidelines in the following directions:

- ✓ to determine methodologies for assessing adaptation activities, policies, the impacts thereof and establishing priorities to assess and report mitigation policies, activities and the impacts thereof;
- ✓ methodology for reporting on climate financial assistance received by Armenia;
- ✓ include gender issues in the transparency actions;
- ✓ consider the progress of Nationally Determined Contributions;
- ✓ operate the on-line platform of transparency initiatives.

6.5. Action "Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in the sector of water resources" to the Office of the Prime Minister"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the

action, as well as it stems from the requirement of point 1.1 "Elaborating the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as "Decision") "On approving the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in the sector of water resources" and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister" of the list of actions approved by Annex to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 749-L of 13 May 2021 "On approving the National Action Plan on Adaptation of Climate Change and the list of actions for 2021-2025."

For the purpose of ensuring the legal grounds for elaborating the draft Decision, draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and amendments to the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia" has been elaborated, after the approval whereof the draft Decision will be submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Armenia is a landlocked country with vulnerable mountainous ecosystems, which has a high risk, high sensitivity to and limited adaptation capacities for climate change. Conditioned by the climate change, a continuous rise in temperature is expected, a decline in yields is expected in the sector of agriculture, and an increase in irrigation demand in the sector of irrigation.

Armenia is deemed to be a country with high initial water stress, which means that the ratio between usable water resources and water intake is deemed to be risky and already is subject to the negative impact of climate change and water scarcity.

The Fourth National Communication on Climate Change assessed the vulnerability of annual flow of rivers in Armenia, according where to the flow of rivers of Armenia will reduce by -829.4 million m³ or -12.2 % within the period of 2011-2040, and by -1,131.7 million m³ or -18% within the period of 2041-2070. Taking into consideration the aforementioned, henceforth it is necessary to take into account the issues of reducing the vulnerability of water resources in the context of climate change, as well as the issues of adaptation and steps aimed at the settlement thereof in strategies or concept papers serving as a basis for the strategy of all the other sectors important from the perspective of vulnerability of water resources.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is indisputable that the consequences of climate change are not immediately apparent, and in the initial stage they do not differ from normal climatic fluctuations, however, the issue exists and it is necessary to elaborate and implement long-term and comprehensive actions for a longer period, which will prevent the emergence of serious issues and will be of major importance for the ability to achieve the objectives of social and economic development of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of adoption of the Decision, the measures aimed at the effective management and conservation of water resources will be clearly defined, taking into consideration the consequences of climate change, the vulnerability and adaptation of water ecosystems in respect thereto.

6.6. Action "Implementing the programme "Management of waste and flood of closed quarry of the town of Artik"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the "2021-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the "Paris Agreement", Decision N610-L of 22 April 2021 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

The territory for the implementation of the action is located in the north-west of Armenia, in Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia. Marz borders Turkey in the west, and Georgia in the north. "Lake Arpi" National Park is in the territory of Marz. The climate of Marz is mild mountainous, with cool summers and long winters. The annual precipitation amount is 500-600mm. In Armenia, the absolute minimum temperature, -46°C, has been recorded here.

The territory of the Programme includes the region of Artik located in the southern section of Shirak Marz, which is known for its deposits of tuff, pumice, lime stone. The territory is presented with volcanic plains, which stands out with favourable conditions for development of cereal crops and animal breeding. The stone mines having been exploited for years have affected the environment. Earlier, more than 60% of the total volume of construction stone of the Republic has been produced in Artik and the adjacent communities thereof.

Many mines were closed, since the consumption volumes of construction stones have been reduced, activities of preserving and restoring the deposits have not been carried out, which caused numerous environmental issues. Due to the exploitation of the deposits, hundreds of hectares of agricultural and natural landscapes were degraded. The waste powder — through strong winds — and solid residues of deposits — through snowmelt and rain — spread over long distances, polluting natural and agricultural landscapes. As a result, there is a reduction of level of the yield, quality of agricultural crops, adaptation of natural landscape to the climate change.

The growing frequency of floods in the last 20 years is another issue, which is conditioned by warm spring temperature not typical of the region. Until the 1980s, the air temperature was reaching 20-25°C during the one and a half month in spring, currently it rises rapidly and unevenly, as a result whereof the snowmelt is accelerating by causing strong floods, which considerably damages residential and public buildings, agricultural lands, homestead lands and gardens. The fact that the industrial waste of deposits fills into two storm water drain canals, passing through the territory of the town of Artik, as well as reduces the capacity thereof, contributes to strengthening of floods. This phenomenon repeats every year.

The flood that occurred in June 2016, caused damage amounting to more than USD 210 000 to the infrastructures and population of the town of Artik, the restoration of consequences whereof may not be carried out only by funds of the town budget. The budget of the town of Artik and adjacent communities does not allow to eliminate the negative impacts of recurring floods and stone waste on the environment.

Objectives of the implementation of the action are as follows:

1. raise the level of adaptation of natural and agricultural landscapes;
2. make floods controllable, reducing the consequences thereof;
3. restore the natural landscape damaged as a consequence of climate change and man-made impacts, demonstrating the potential for increased

<p>adaptation to the degraded natural landscape;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. create early response system for preventing natural disasters; 5. improve the adaptation potential of community institutions and other interested parties in current conditions of climate change; 6. raise the level of knowledge of population on prevention and adaptation of natural disasters in conditions of climate change. It is aimed at assisting sustainable management of forests through studying the current condition of forests and forest lands. <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>During both the Soviet and Post-Soviet years, Artik extracted more than 60% of the total volume of construction stone produced in the Republic, only 35-40% whereof has been used as construction material compliant with the standard, and the rest most part has been mainly thrown to the environment as waste. Since no special waste collection sites were separated, they have been dumped irregularly in the areas adjacent to the mines. Natural landscapes of the town of Artik and adjacent communities have been used in Soviet years, and in Post-Soviet years — also the lands of agricultural use, which have been owned and later abandoned by owners.</p> <p>Mountain and steppe blacksoils, ravines and steep slopes have been mainly polluted, where diverse grasses-poaceae herbage and shrubs are disseminated. As a direct impact, the flora and fauna of this and adjacent territories have considerably impoverished, the physical and chemical composition and water-accumulating qualities of lands have deteriorated. In these conditions, surface flow of snowmelt and rainwater is accelerating, the quality of the soil of absorbing water and retaining moisture is deteriorating, as a result whereof there is a lack of species and quantitative composition of flora and fauna. Such changes accelerate the degradation processes of natural landscapes.</p> <p>As a secondary effect of quarries, there is the spread of stone dust, soluble substances and relatively small fractions through wind, snowmelt and rainwater to adjacent natural and agricultural landscapes. Their gradual accumulation over the years has had a negative impact on the sustainability of natural landscapes and on the yield of agricultural landscapes.</p> <p>The sum of the mentioned impacts mostly weakens the self-restoration quality of landscapes and the level of adaptation to the forecast climate changes. It may be generalised that the negative impact of uncultivated quarries and waste may be assimilated to a chain, the units whereof are landscapes, water ecosystems, adjacent communities and infrastructures formed as a result of natural, agricultural and human activities.</p> <p>Re-cultivation of closed quarries and introduction of technologies and methods of adaptation to climate changes have not been carried out in the Republic of Armenia so far. Taking into consideration the climate and soil conditions of the territory, restoration of soil layer and afforestation are the most effective means to fight against the climate change, which will contribute to the increase in adaptation of surrounding landscapes.</p> <p>Activities are envisaged to be carried out at the expense of other means not prohibited by law, with the funds of the UN Adaptation Fund — AMD 698.893,7 thousand. AMD 122.000,0 thousand was envisaged for 2019.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

Increasing adaptation of natural and agricultural landscapes in conditions of global climate change, prevention of floods, restoration of natural landscape disturbed as a consequence of man-made impacts, raising the knowledge of population on climate change and adaptation

2. Expected outcomes from the implementation of the action

The actions envisaged will contribute to the prevention of floods in the town of Artik, improvement of conditions of more than 300 ha arable lands, 190 ha pastures, 15 ha grasslands, 640 ha artificial forest, artificial reservoir with an area of 80 ha and natural landscapes located in the impact zone of the deposit, raise of the level of self-recovery and sustainability and adaptation to climate change, as well as the transformation of 40,0 ha closed quarry landscape into forest orchards and resorts.

6.7. Action "Implementing component "Creation of the measurement, accountability and certification (MAC) system and knowledge management in the building sector" of the grant programme "Reduction of investment risks aimed at energy efficient modernisation of buildings"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the "2021-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the "Paris Agreement", Decision N610-L of 22 April 2021 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

The programme "Reduction of investment risks aimed at energy efficient modernisation of buildings" financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is aimed at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from buildings in Armenia and thus ensure the benefits of sustainable development. For the implementation thereof, the Programme is focused on reduction of overall risks of investments aimed at the modernisation of EE (energy efficiency) in buildings, as the main sector for consuming energy in the Republic of Armenia. Creation of favourable market environment and business model for investments aimed at the EE modernisation will lead to significant energy saving, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, creation of green jobs and reduction of poverty.

The Programme will overcome the obstacles having faced as a result of the EE re-construction of buildings through the combination of policies, mitigation tools of financial risk and targeted financial advantages for key market players.

Through targeting the obstacles of policy, financial, market, technical and capacity obstacles, the Programme will significantly reduce the image of investment risks aimed at the EE modernisation of buildings and will encourage the investments of the private sector, thus will scale the investments aimed at the EE modernisation of buildings in the country.

The Programme emphasises the re-equipment of existing infrastructures and assists the efforts of reinforcing urban systems. The Programme is based on the great experience of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is designed to assist the Government of the Republic of Armenia and involve the private sector in successfully reducing the EE obstacles in the sectors of heating, buildings and lighting. The Programme will create favourable market environment and business model for investments of EE modernisation in Armenia, which will lead to the reduction of CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions

from 5.1 million tons up to 5.4 million tons within a course of around 20 years of investment.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Buildings are one of the biggest consumers of energy. Most of the buildings in Armenia were built during the Soviet years (35-60 years ago), when the EE requirements were ignored mainly. According to the National Communication of the Cadastre of Greenhouse Gases submitted by the Republic of Armenia in 2010 under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), almost 28% of primary energy resources is consumed by buildings, mainly in the residential sector, which compiles 20% of overall greenhouse gas emissions. In conditions of marked continental climate expressed by long heating season and -5°C average winter temperature and -42°C absolute minimum temperature, energy consumption in the sector of buildings and greenhouse gas emissions in Armenia are mainly related to heating.

Increase in EE in the sector of buildings is deemed to be a high priority for the strategies of climate, energy and housing fund of Armenia. In particular, reaching thermal modernisation through the EE modernisation, particularly in multi-apartment buildings, is predetermined as a priority of national development. In particular, this is clearly reflected in the provisions of the National Energy Efficiency Programme (2007), National Security Strategy (2007), Concept paper on Ensuring Energy Security (2013) and Action Plan of Energy Security Strategy (2014), all of which acknowledge the potential of energy efficiency (EE) and outline the technical measures/solutions to be taken.

This plan will contribute to the application of EE principles in line with the identified priorities for low emission and climate resilience development through carrying out relevant policies and functions, in particular:

- National Programme on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy (2007) attaches importance to equalisation of the State Development Policy, and directs the Financial and Credit Policy of the country to the creation and maintenance of active market structures for energy saving and EE benefits to provide an effective mechanism for market participants;
- two laws regulating the EE: the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On energy" (2001) and the Law "On energy-saving and renewable energy" (2004). These laws prescribe main provisions and principles of the sector of energy, including those for ensuring the effective use of energy, ensuring energy independence of Armenia, as well as creating new industries and organising new services, implementing national targeted programmes and applying new technologies for the purpose of developing the renewable energy and energy-saving.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- Assist the policy, regulating, institutional and market transformation, which contributes to the raise of level of EE of buildings and reduces greenhouse gas emissions;
- Contribute to the improved EE of public buildings of healthcare, educational, cultural and other sectors, improve the level of adaptation and reduce the allocations from the state budget for energy costs, in parallel improving the overall quality of public services;
- Assist the proper and affordable provision of apartments in Armenia through application of the Integrated Design Concept Paper of Buildings, and

	<p>contribute to the reduction of total costs of building exploitation, reduction of public expenditures and reduction of costs for users, clients;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribute to the development objectives of Armenia (environment, economic and social) concerning the sector of construction and buildings; ● Assist the transformation of the path of low-emission development in the long run; ● Contribute to the improvement of energy security of Armenia. <p>In accordance with Decision of the Board of the CPC, the programme was extended for 36 months, including the first component, which is conditioned by the fact that not all the planned buildings have been thermally modernised. Within the scope of the component, it is planned to carry out energy audits of new thermally modernised buildings, draw up energy passports, estimate greenhouse gas emissions, as well as activities of awareness-raising and enhancing knowledge. No change is planned in the approved budget for the implementation of the mentioned works.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The action will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elaborating the framework for monitoring, accountability and audit (MAA) for different categories of buildings, including elaboration of guidelines and monitoring methodology; ● Supporting the full implementation of the Energy Management Information System (EMIS) of the buildings selected for the purpose of demonstration and capacity building; ● Creating a website that will provide a platform for information and communication between different interested parties and improve collaboration and learning through the exchange of available knowledge and skills; ● Elaborating formats for distributing information. <p>Expected outcomes:● Methodologies for calculating emission coefficients in the sector of buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Localised energy management information system. ● Modernised and updated "Mershenq.am" Website. ● Conducted courses. ● Awareness-raising works, advertising materials. ● Implementing energy audits of new thermally modernised buildings under the programme, preparation of energy passports and assessment of greenhouse gas emissions.
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6.8. Action” Implementing the programme "Transition to Electric Motor Vehicles in Armenia"”

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the "2021-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the "Paris Agreement", Decision N610-L of 22 April 2021 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

During the last 30 years, there is global climate warming in the world, which is expressed by the increase in frequency and intensity of natural disasters, acceleration of desertification phenomena and reduction of water resources. It is proved that global climate warming is the result of greenhouse gas emissions, which are mainly emitted from different sectors of the economy.

Most of the greenhouse gas emissions come from transport, which emits carbon dioxide, methane and other gases into the atmosphere through using a large number of fuels and lubricant oils. It is clear that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the sector of transport will considerably reduce the total volume of emissions and slow down the global climate warming to some extent.

The action is aimed at introducing the culture of applying electromobility in the Republic of Armenia and show the effectiveness thereof in the reduction of volumes of greenhouse gas emissions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the exploitation of electromobility is highly limited in the Republic, since problems of charging and a number of legal issues are not settled.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- Establish an inter-agency body co-ordinating the activities;
- Clarify the interested groups for acquiring the electric transport means;
- Train the main interested parties, giving priority to the involvement of women;
- Elaborate a draft of public procurement, data collection systems, reports and analytical frameworks;
- Elaborate a National Strategy for Introduction of Vehicles Working With Electric Engine, including all means of transport, charging infrastructures, as well as gender analysis and action plan;
- Elaborate and adopt a Package of Policy and Regulating Actions to ease the transition to the electric mobility in the mid-term and long-term perspective;
- Organise procurements of electric vehicles and charging infrastructures.
- The time-limit for implementing the grant programme “Implementing the programme "Transition to Electric Motor Vehicles in Armenia" initiated by the

	<p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has been extended to 30 September 2025. The initiative is based on the need to monitor the effectiveness of electric motor vehicles purchased for state use and to collect the necessary data for assessing the action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the “Office for Implementation of Environment Programmes” state institution, which establishes 30 September 2025 as the technical completion date for the programme. On 31 May 2024, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme Amendment Agreement No 1 was signed by the Director of Climate Change Unit. <p>The revised Budget and the Work Plan have been prepared.</p> <p>The extension of the Programme’s technical completion will not negatively impact its outcomes, as it pertains to monitoring the effectiveness of electric motor vehicles purchased under the second component of the Programme (“Elimination of short-term barriers through demonstrations of low-carbon electric mobility”) for state use and collecting data for assessment.</p> <p>The extension of the Programme’s technical completion does not require additional funding.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The action will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduction of volumes of greenhouse gas emissions; - effectiveness of electromobiles and environmental safety will be demonstrated; - mindset of people regarding the importance of electromobiles will change; - an opportunity will be provided to show co-ordinated and regulated approaches for settling the existing issues. <p>6.9. Action "Implementing component "Adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change through the transfer of new technologies" of the programme "Sustainability of forests of Armenia, enhancing adaptation and promoting green growth of community development through mitigation of climate change"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the "2021-2030 Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the "Paris Agreement", Decision N610-L of the Government of 22 April 2021 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>According to the Third National Communication "On climate change" of the UN Framework Convention, in accordance with the scenario of business as</p>
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<p>usual (BAU), 5-6% of the current forests may disappear by 2030, since unhealthy trees and forest groves will become more sensitive to vermins, diseases and fires. Besides, rural communities are still mostly dependent on forests.</p> <p>As a result of studies on the energy consumption of housekeeping performed lately, it turned out that the consumption of fuel will increase as a result of the price rise of fossil fuels. As for adaptation challenges, the forestry presents one of the less adapted sub-branches. TNC projects change of boundaries of forests to other ecosystems, which is conditioned by the mass emergence of wildfires, diseases and vermins.</p> <p>The last publication of the United States Agency for International Development covers the ecosystems among the areas that are most vulnerable to climate change and where impacts will be broad and tangible. According to the communications, as a consequence of climate change, more than 15% of seedling species of Armenia are on the verge of extinction. More frequently recurring summer droughts and water stress will reduce the growth rate of trees and increase the sensitivity to vermins and diseases. This will also create conditions for more frequent and strong outbreaks of fire, which — in approximate calculations — will lead to the loss of 14,000-17,000 ha of forest by 2023.</p> <p>Mitigation of consequences of climate change will be mainly carried out from renewable energy (RE), energy efficiency (EE), forests and soil carbon storage. Compared to 2010, emissions are projected to increase by 57% until 2030, and the already reduced carbon will reduce more (11% 2010-2014). Afforestation adapting to the climate change, reduction of forest degradation (for instance, fuel wood) and growth of participation in forest management will promote to make Nationally Determined Contributions and will contribute to the directions of low-carbon development, which comply with the rise of temperature below 2°C.</p> <p>The project is aimed at enhancing the best experience of previous projects relating to the EE and forestry and expanding the co-operation within the scope of current projects, contributing to the NDC targets.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The main reasons and obstacles are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of alternatives for the rural population, particularly for women (25% of rural housekeeping are led only by women), who address the primary energy-related needs in ineffective and costly ways; - lack of technical capacities and institutional coordination of institutions, to address the energy needs of the forest sector and the climate change; - lack of mechanisms of adequate policy to apply the approach of ecosystem aimed at Nationally Determined Contributions and to ensure the participation of interested parties in the forest management; <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restoration and sustainable management of at least 2.5% of degraded forest territories in accordance with the climate adaptation methodology; - optimisation and at least 30% reduction of dependence on fuel wood of targeted rural communities;

- provision of opportunity to relevant interested parties to perform effective and adaptive management of forests.

Pursuant to the contract, it is envisaged to implement the Programme in 2022-2023.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The action will contribute to the:

- establishment of 3 nurseries adapted to the climate and building capacities of the personnel "Hayantar" SNCO and interested parties;
- production of 12 million container seedlings;
- activities of planting and preserving on selected lands of the state forest fund (6300 ha) and on urban lands (1000 ha);
- elaboration and formation of the required course plans by the Ministry of Environment and specialised higher educational institution;
- design and approval of quality standards of energy-saving equipment;
- testing of energy-saving equipment;
- technological grants are elaborated and made available for targeted housekeeping having transitioned to energy efficient heating equipment;
- elaboration of guidelines of forest management for community organisations;
- institutional and community assistance with regard to the application of benchmarks of management of forests adaptive to climate changes, including rural energy efficiency;
- assessment of land categories, formation of forest monitoring system and national capacities;
- collection of field data, including management of research data, provision of quality, assessment and interpretation of the research results;
- assessment of intervention territories and impact through orthophoto mapping and digital surface models;
- empowerment, awareness-raising and sensitisation of communities.

6.10. Action "Implementation of the action "Mitigation of the process of climate change and strengthening adaptation capacities in the arid (Vayots Dzor Marz) zone of the Republic of Armenia""

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptation to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the "2021-2030 Nationally Determined

Contributions" (NDC) of the Republic of Armenia under the "Paris Agreement", Decision N610-L of the Government of 22 April 2021 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

Vayots Dzor Marz, where the programme is recommended to be implemented, is located in the south-east of Armenia and is one of the regions of the country that is more arid and has scarce forests. Marz occupies 2308km² area, population is 60000 people. Forest lands cover 136,5 km² area, which is 5,9% of the marz territory. More than 80% of forests are juniper sparse forests.

Marz has a ragged surface with deep gorges and high mountains. Vertical zonality of landscapes is typical of the territory of Marz. The leading branch of the economy of Marz is agriculture. By 2050, it is expected to have temperature rise and reduction of precipitation, secondary soil salinisation, torrential rains and floods, as a consequence whereof water erosions will increase, and wind erosion of soil will increase as a consequence of droughts and dry hotwinds.

Forecast climate changes may have a negative impact on natural and agricultural ecosystems and biodiversity. The degradation of natural ecosystems relatively close to communities accelerates under these conditions, and they lose the adaptation to climate change. On the other hand, the observed climate changes (temperature rise, reduction of precipitation, increase in frequency of heat waves, floods and hail, etc.) reduce the quantity, quality of agricultural product, and the living standard of the population decreases.

The action is aimed at increasing the adaptation of communities of Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia more vulnerable to climate change, mitigating the rate of climate change, raising the level of food safety and fundamental change in population attitudes on the sustainable management of ecosystems.

To achieve this objective, the following goals are set:

- Increase the storage capacities of soil organic carbon;
- raise the level of adaptation of agricultural and natural ecosystems;
- increase capacities of food security of communities;
- reduce the greenhouse gas emissions;
- ensure the preservation and continuity of results.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Reduction of incomes received from agriculture and animal farming does not allow some group of residents to use enough gas and electricity for household needs. Wood and dried manure are used as fuel. There are 2 main negative impacts in these conditions.

1. The pressure on the forest ecosystem is growing, as a result whereof the climatic-regulating and water-accumulating qualities of the forest are reducing. As a result of rapid spread of fires, cuttings, diseases and vermins, glades, sparse plots, inexpensive shrubs that are not typical of the ecosystem emerge, where the germination of seeds of tree species typical of the forest and development of a new forest is highly deteriorating. The ecosystem is gradually

	<p>weakening and losing the adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>2. Volumes of the use of organic fertilisers in agriculture are reducing. The qualitative characteristics of soil are deteriorating gradually and very often they are left without cultivation, are degraded turning into semi-desert soil types or those with very sparse grass.</p> <p>Due to the insufficient financial resources, the local self-government bodies are not able to implement actions aimed at increasing the sustainability of natural ecosystems and agricultural landscapes in conditions of the climate change. The actions recommended will create alternative opportunities for residents and local self-government bodies to receive income, as a result whereof the pressure on natural ecosystems will reduce and they may adapt to the climate change more effectively.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Application of community-based smart agricultural practice and reduction of vulnerability to climate risks in degraded territories of selected communities of Vayots Dzor Marz, reinforcement of value chains of agricultural production, transfer of climate-smart technologies to communities, strengthening the awareness raising, planning, monitoring and decision making potential of climate-smart practice for agriculture management.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The action will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of adaptive strategic actions; • Introduction of climate-smart agricultural technologies; • improvement of value chain of target product; • raise of the level of life support in communities through strengthening planning capacities; • prevention of soil degradation; • introduction of new saving technologies for irrigation water, • increase in productivity of natural feed lands; • increase in the yield of agricultural plants and diversification of incomes of the population; • increasing access to hardly accessible pastures, grasslands and arable lands. <p>6.11. Action “Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On climate" being approved by the Government”</p>
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1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Direction "Implementing actions for adaptability to and mitigation of the consequences of climate change" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as "Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement" with the necessity of adopting legal document serving as a relevant basis for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)served as a basis for elaboration of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On climate" (hereinafter referred to as "the Law").

As a consequence of adopting draft Decision of the new Law of the Republic of Armenia "On climate", the relations aimed at the management of the most vulnerable sectors of climate change will be regulated, the scope of competent bodies for the implementation of climate actions will be clarified. The adoption of the Law is aimed at improving the level of protection of public health and safety, including human health, to clarify the mechanisms for the recovery of possible losses and damages due to climate change, and to assess environmental needs.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Elaborating Law "On climate change" is aimed at defining the main directions for fighting against the negative impacts of the climate change of the Republic of Armenia, regulating the processes of mitigating climate change and implementing adaptation mechanisms and climate actions.

Currently, absence of law serves as a basis for the non-coordinated fulfilment of the obligations assumed by international treaties. Taking into account the pace of intensification of the negative consequences of climate change, the availability of regulated legal mechanisms for the implementation of viable and urgent climate actions is highly necessary.

The Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement ratified on 11 April 2018 is also a highly important fact. Within the scope of this, a necessity has arisen to undertake measures to comply with the domestic legislation of the Republic of Armenia and EU directives. The absence of effective mechanisms for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions related to climate change has a significant impact on the effectiveness of fulfilment of international obligations.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The recommended Law envisages to regulate the state policy on climate change, co-ordinate the processes of mitigating climate and elaborating and implementing adaptation policy.

The Law will define the main concepts regarding climate change, which will clarify existing misconceptions regarding each concept. In addition, legal grounds will be laid for the elaboration of mid-term and long-term plans for the fight against climate change, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as for the use of resilient adaptation tools.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Availability of a law consistent with international standards, EU directives and modern public relations, through which the processes of combating the negative effects of climate change will be put on the most co-ordinated and effective grounds. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On climate" will

	<p>stipulate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - legal regulations for mitigation of climate change in the country and elaboration, implementation of adaptation policy, institutional co-ordination of those processes; - clear definition of mid-term and long-term climate goals and significance of incorporating climate considerations into sectoral development policies.
7.	<p>Creating an eco-friendly system of management of chemical substances</p> <p>7.1 Action "Adopting Decision of the Government on approval by the Government of the Republic of Armenia of the draft Law "On chemical substances"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Creating an eco-friendly system of management of chemical substances" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the "Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia and European Union, as well as the European Atomic Energy Community and the member states thereof" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On chemical substances" is aimed at ensuring the safe use of chemical substances from the perspective of human health and preservation of environment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>A large number of legal acts have been adopted in the sector of chemical substances in the Republic of Armenia, which mainly stem from the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia and regulate separate, sometimes unrelated, legal relations in the sector of chemical substances. Both the international conventions and domestic legislation, and legal acts adopted within the scope of the Eurasian Economic Union adopted in the field of using chemical substances mainly regulate the processes of banning, importing certain chemical substances, or regulate the use of a limited number of chemical substances, whereas the relations related to the import, export, registration and marking of chemical substances are not regulated in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The implementation of the action will regulate the issues related to the use of chemical substances in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, that is the issues related to the protection of environment and ensuring safety of human health during production, use, storage, transportation, realisation, import and export, as well as to the introduction of the registration system of chemical substances.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On chemical substances" will regulate the legal relations related to the use of chemical substances in</p>

the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of reducing potential harmful effects thereof on human health and environment and ensuring safety.

7.2. Action “Submitting the draft Decision of the Government “On approving the list of actions to be implemented in 2022-2026 of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention “On persistent organic pollutants in the Republic of Armenia” to the Office of the Prime Minister”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Creating an eco-friendly system of management of chemical substances" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the fulfilment of obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia under the Stockholm Convention "On persistent organic pollutants" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In 2003, the Republic of Armenia ratified the Stockholm Convention "On persistent organic pollutants" and in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, it has undertaken to regularly review and update the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention. The previous 2016-2020 Action Plan was approved by Protocol Decision No 49 of the sitting of the Government of 8 December 2016, the term of effectiveness whereof has expired, therefore a necessity has arisen to submit an updated National Action Plan.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to update the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention "On persistent organic pollutants" in the Republic of Armenia by including new persistent organic pollutants.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Implementation of the actions stemming from the Stockholm Convention “On persistent organic pollutants” will contribute to decrease of the adverse effect of persistent organic pollutants, reduction emissions and environmentally safe elimination of waste.

7.3. Action "Establishing a register of chemical substances and mixtures in the Republic of Armenia"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Direction "Creating an eco-friendly system of management of chemical substances" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, point 3 of Decision of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission N 19 of 3 March 2017, as well as points 1 and 2 of Decision N 550-L of 15 April 2021 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.

	<p>The necessity for forming the register of chemical substances and mixtures is also conditioned by the elaboration of the draft Law "On chemical substances", since the regulations envisaged by the draft Law, including those with regard to the registration of chemical substances and mixtures, must be in line with the requirements of legal acts of the Eurasian Economic Union, and the system for registration of chemical substances and mixtures must be common for all the member states of EAEU.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is no unified registration system for chemical substances in the Republic of Armenia, and currently the issue requiring a primary settlement in the field of regulating chemical substances is the establishment of a unified registration system for chemical substances, since the lack of information on properties, quantity of chemical substances, the impact thereof on human health and environment, manufacturers, importers, acquirers of chemical substances does not allow state bodies to regulate the field effectively.</p> <p>1. On 9 December 2022, during the on-line video consultation organised by the Eurasian Economic Commission, the draft Decision of the EEC Council "On making amendments to Decision of the EEC Council No 19 of 3 March 2017 "On approving the technical regulation "On safety of chemical products"" (EAEU TR 041/2017) was presented, by which it is envisaged to change the time limits of entry into force of EAEU TR 041/2017 and the legal acts, documents derived therefrom, as well as those of establishing registers of chemical substances and mixtures, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the procedure for establishing and maintaining the register of chemical substances and mixtures of EAEU", as well as the list of the international and interstate relevant standards that are necessary for the observance of the requirements prescribed by EAEU TR 041/2017, prescribing a time limit for elaboration and approval thereof until 1 September 2024; (2) to request the governments of member states of the Eurasian Economic Union to ensure the establishment of the national (domestic) registers of chemical substances and mixtures with regard to chemical substances until 1 September 2025 and with regard to mixtures started from 1 September 2030; (3) to prescribe a time limit for entry into force of the technical regulation "On safety of chemical products" EAEU TR 041/2017 1 September 2026, in case of ensuring the actions prescribed by point 2 of Decision of the EEC Council No 19 of 3 March 2017. <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The implementation of the action will contribute to the establishment of registry of chemical substances and mixtures, which will be a unified database on chemical substances and mixtures produced in and imported into the Republic of Armenia and will be applied for the purpose of safely using those substances.</p> <p>The Action will be implemented in five stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) for the purpose of preparing the activities for forming the register of chemical substances and mixtures in the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to sub-points 1 and 2 of point 2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 550-L of 15 April 2021, a study and summary of the information on chemical substances and mixtures submitted by the Ministry of Economy, used and circulated by the industrial organisations, subject to
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	<p>record-registration, as well as those submitted by the State Revenue Committee, imported in and exported from the Republic of Armenia during 2015-2020 will be conducted.</p> <p>(2) pursuant to sub-point 2 of point 2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 550-A of 12 April 2021, a study of the information on the chemical substances and mixtures, imported in and exported from the Republic of Armenia, submitted by the State Revenue Committee (until 30 January of the year following each year) will be conducted, as well as update, processing and summary of the data available will be carried out;</p> <p>(3) preparing the activities for forming the register of chemical substances in the Republic of Armenia (national part of register of chemical substances of the EAEU)</p> <p>(a) collecting the characteristics of chemical substances subject to registration in the register (for instance, name of the substance, chemical formula, chemical and physical properties, degree of danger to human health and environmental components, restrictions of application, etc.), for the purpose of data processing, organising and holding tenders for the purchase of services necessary for the involvement of chemists, toxicologists or specialists and organisations having other relevant professional qualification;</p> <p>(b) organising and holding tenders for the purchase of services necessary for the involvement of specialists and organisations developing a relevant electronic programme for the purpose of forming electronic archive (database) of data on chemical substances;</p> <p>(4) preparing the data collected for the purpose of forming the register of chemical substances in Republic of Armenia (correcting the data on chemical substances and translating them into Russian for submission to the EEC), replenishing the established electronic system with data on chemical substances with the involvement of chemists, toxicologists or specialists and organisations having other relevant professional qualification.</p> <p>(5) For the purpose of including in the unified register of chemical substances and mixtures of the EAEU, transferring "the register of chemical substances in the Republic of Armenia" to the relevant sub-division of the Eurasian Economic Commission with the involvement of specialists and organisations having relevant professional qualification in the mentioned activities, where necessary.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action will contribute to the establishment of registry of chemical substances and mixtures, improvement of state regulation of chemical substances and mixtures and provision of safe application thereof.</p> <p>7.4. Action "Adopting the Decision of the Government "On establishing the procedure for export and import of hazardous chemical substances"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Creating an eco-friendly system of management of chemical substances" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the obligations assumed under the "Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia and European Union, as well as the European Atomic Energy Community and the member</p>
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	<p>states thereof" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Normative legal acts in effect in the Republic of Armenia mainly regulate the processes of prohibiting, importing certain chemical substances or regulate the use of a limited number of chemical substances, whereas the relations related to the import and export of chemical substances are not regulated in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The processes of export and import of chemical substances will be regulated upon the definition of the procedures for exporting and importing hazardous chemical substances, additional requirements will be set for the purpose of protecting human health and environment, the record-registration of information on chemical substances will be ensured.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Issues related to the protection of the environment and provision of safety of human health during the import and export of chemical substances into and out of the territory of the Republic of Armenia will be regulated by defining the procedures for import and export of hazardous chemical substances.</p>
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Improving the waste management system (including subsoil use).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8.1 Action "Adopting secondary legislative acts deriving from the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Mercury" after the adoption thereof"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Improvement of the waste management system, including subsoil use" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and the obligations assumed under the Minamata Convention "On mercury" served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>The Minamata Convention "On mercury" is aimed at protecting human life and environment from anthropogenic effects of mercury and mercury compounds.</p> <p>In fulfilment of the obligations assumed under the Convention, the countries, having ratified the Convention after 2020, prohibit the production, import or export of products with mercury additives listed in Part I of Annex A to the Convention in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention.</p> <p>The necessity for adopting the action also stems from Article 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, according where to state and local self-government bodies and officials are entitled to perform only such actions wherefor they are authorised under the Constitution or laws. Therefore, powers of the state administration bodies in the sector of ensuring the ecologically safe management conditions of mercury must stem from the law.</p>

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In 2017, the Republic of Armenia ratified the Minamata Convention "On mercury" which has entered into force for the Republic of Armenia since 13 March 2018.

The Republic of Armenia has assumed a number of obligations, including those with regard to defining the ban on production, import and export of certain products with mercury additives after 2020 — the time period envisaged for removing that product from circulation on a phased basis.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

After adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On mercury", adoption of draft secondary legal acts stemming from the Law will prescribe the powers of the Government and authorised body in the sector of providing ecologically safe management conditions, enshrine the restrictions of production, import and export of products with mercury additives, provisions of the ban on extracting mercury and of exporting mercury from the Republic of Armenia and importing mercury into the Republic of Armenia, as well as rights and obligations of legal persons and individual entrepreneurs involved in the use of mercury.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On mercury" and secondary legislative acts deriving from the Law, a legal ground for regulation of mercury will be established, which will contribute to ecologically safe use of mercury, protection of human health and environment from harmful effects of mercury, mercury compounds and mercury waste.

8.2. Action "Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On establishing the procedure for supervision and monitoring during exploitation of landfills" to the Office of the Prime Minister"**1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action**

Direction "Improvement of the management system of waste, including subsoil use" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action. Establishment of the procedure for control and monitoring during the exploitation of landfills also stems from point 105.5 of Annex 2 to roadmap of obligations assumed under the "Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia and European Union, as well as the European Atomic Energy Community and the member states thereof".

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Proper control is missing in the landfills operating in the Republic of Armenia and monitoring of the environmental condition is not carried out in the landfill areas, at all.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The procedure for control and monitoring during the exploitation of landfills will define obligations for the exploiters, as well as state and local self-government bodies aimed at observing the rules of landfill operation and determining the condition of the environment and the pollution thereof in the hazardous impact zone of the landfill.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The properly implemented control in accordance with the procedure prescribed will contribute to the prevention or reduction of hazardous impact during the exploitation of landfills on human health and environment, and the implementation of monitoring will ensure the collection of necessary data on atmospheric air, soil and water contamination in the protection zone of the waste placement sites. The data received as a result of monitoring will provide the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of environmental actions implemented by the person exploiting the landfills and the review thereof, upon necessity.

8.3. Action "Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the technical specifications of using polychlorinated biphenyls" to the Office of the Prime Minister"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Direction "Improvement of the management system of waste, including subsoil use" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served as a basis for the implementation of the action. The necessity for elaborating the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the technical specifications of using polychlorinated biphenyls" stems from the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia under the Stockholm Convention "On persistent organic pollutants", according whereeto, it is necessary to control and gradually neutralise/eliminate oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls in an ecologically safe way.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, countries party to the Convention must undertake measures to neutralise and eliminate oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment (transformers, oil switches) by 2025.

To avoid the issues caused by polychlorinated biphenyls and hazards thereof, it is important to ensure the co-ordinated and safe management in all the stages of life cycle of polychlorinated biphenyls.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

As a result of the implementation of the action, technical conditions will be defined, which will regulate the use, exploitation, decommissioning, storage, neutralisation and elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), waste containing PCBs and equipment containing PCBs, record-registration of waste containing PCBs, reserve capacities and oils polluted with polychlorinated biphenyls existing therein, inventory-taking, accountability, implementation of

	<p>monitoring, labelling, marking, packaging, carrying out transportation activities, as well as will provide the safety rules to deal with the PCBs and waste containing PCBs.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the Decision will contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia under the Stockholm Convention “On persistent organic pollutants”, provision of ecologically substantiated management of equipment and waste containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), which will reduce the possible risks conditioned by the use of PCBs and the negative consequences thereof on the environment and human health.</p>
9.	<p>Implementation of re-cultivation of abandoned, ownerless areas of territories and waste facilities for subsoil use violated as a result of subsoil use.</p> <p>9.1. Action “Elaborating draft packages for re-cultivation of abandoned, ownerless areas of territories and waste facilities for subsoil use”</p> <p>1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Implementation of re-cultivation of abandoned, ownerless areas of territories and waste facilities for subsoil use violated as a result of subsoil use" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 60.10 of the Subsoil Code served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>The action is aimed at carrying out re-cultivation of territories, deemed to be ownerless or abandoned, occupied with subsoil use waste existing in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as mine technical and biological re-cultivation of waste facilities, neutralising them as a source of environmental pollution, reducing the level of technogenic pollution and the damage caused to the environment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Abandoned, ownerless areas of subsoil use waste have been studied by the Ministry of Environment as a result of extraction of metallic minerals in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, initial information base has been created thereon. More than ten areas have been separated, where the implementation of re-cultivation activities is more urgent. To design re-cultivation activities, create ecologically safe waste management system, a number of descriptive data on their negative impact on the environment are needed (level of pollution of soil and water environment, topographic mineral products of territories occupied by waste, three-dimensional models of spatial-volume areas or facilities, etc.). There is no funding source for the implementation of the above-mentioned activities.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of re-cultivating abandoned, ownerless areas and facilities of subsoil use waste, it is envisaged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) conduct monitoring of the pollution of natural components of the environment of areas and waste facilities for subsoil use; (2) measure the territories to be re-cultivated;

	<p>(3) make thorough topographic mineral product in each area;</p> <p>(4) elaborate three-dimensional computer model of each area/facility for the purpose of providing clear initial data on the spatial position, volume image, forming rocks thereof, infiltrated water flows and unloading spots thereof, etc.</p> <p>(5) elaborate and implement a project of mine technical re-cultivation;</p> <p>(6) discuss with relevant scientific institutions and select the most favourable methods of biological re-cultivation focusing on the possibilities of applying endemic plant species specific to territories;</p> <p>(7) elaborate and implement a project of mine technical re-cultivation;</p> <p>(8) provide post-project monitoring of the environment in the re-cultivated territories (at least 5 years) controlling the effectiveness of biological re-cultivation activities.</p> <p>It will be possible to carry out the activities in case of availability of relevant funding.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Reduction of volumes of subsoil use waste, reduction/neutralisation of adverse impacts on the environment, return of restored lands to economic circulation</p>
10.	<p>Elaborating and implementing the policy for prevention and reduction of contamination and degradation of lands</p> <p>10.1. Action” Implementing monitoring of contaminated, degraded lands in the territory of the Republic of Armenia”</p> <p>1. The necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Elaborating and implementing the policy for prevention and reduction of contamination and degradation of lands" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Article 32 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, provisions of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N276-N of 19 February 2009, as well as the 2018-2022 Action Plan for Environmental Protection and Use of Natural Resources approved by Protocol Decision N11 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 22 March 2018 served as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>Objectives of the implementation of the action are as follows:</p> <p>(1) study, assessment and timely detection of change of land condition, projection of those changes and prevention of consequences of negative processes;</p> <p>(2) collection of information on technogenic polluted land plots, establishment of cadastre;</p> <p>(3) digitisation of mapping materials and presenting in digital information environment;</p> <p>(4) creation of network of observation points;</p>

	<p>(5) collection and registration of monitoring information.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The indicators for conducting soil monitoring are clearly defined under the legislation, but non-regulated and episodic monitoring of soil contamination is currently conducted. Works of observation of soil contamination are performed at different levels and not fully, as a result whereof there is no permanently operating and regulated system of soil quality monitoring and provision of information thereon.</p> <p>The amounts required for performance of the works have been estimated according to the number of platforms assessed for man-caused soil contamination (mining waste facilities, open quarries, sites for discharge of ore mine waters, etc.), the number of minimum samples in each of them and have constituted around AMD 100300,0 thousand.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Conduct field studies of contaminated, degraded lands, connect the separated areas with topographic bases with coordinate axes, develop a sampling observation network, especially in areas adjacent to mine dumps and dumps of metal mines, determine about 30 parameters characterising soil contamination, accomplish a series of monitoring activities on the condition of soil contamination.</p> <p>It will be possible to carry out the works in case of availability of relevant funding.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, a monitoring system equivalent to the territory of the Republic of Armenia, effectively operating according to the international standards and producing targeted information will be formed, as well as maps corresponding to the natural and climatic conditions of the Republic of Armenia and the peculiarities of qualitative distribution of soil layer contamination will be elaborated.</p>
11.	<p>Elaborating a policy on ambient air preservation for reducing and limiting emissions</p> <p>11.1. Action "Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making an amendment to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On preservation of ambient air"" to the Office of the Prime Minister"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The direction "Elaborating a policy on ambient air preservation for reducing and limiting emissions" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, point 1 of the 2018-2022 Action Plan for Environmental Preservation and Management of Use of Natural Resources of Protocol Decision No 11 of the sitting of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 22 March 2018, as well as the Roadmap approved for the purpose of implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA), signed on 24 November 2017 and ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 11 April 2018 have served as a basis for the implementation of the</p>

Action.

The concept paper on the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ambient air preservation" has been elaborated and approved by Protocol Decision No 50 of the sitting of 15 December 2016. The amendments and supplements having served as a legal basis for elaboration of the given Draft have been clearly stated in the concept paper.

The Draft is aimed at ensuring, through creation of legal basis, the effective management of ambient air preservation in compliance with the modern approaches and within the context of sustainable development.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Management of the ambient air preservation is currently carried out according to the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 11 October 1994 "On preservation of ambient air" (hereinafter referred to as "the Law"). During 2015-2016, a number of issues existing in the Law were studied and revealed, in particular the necessity for reviewing the old norms and stipulating new requirements, which arose as a result of certain developments taking place in public and international relations. Besides, omissions were revealed in the process of enforcement of the Law, which also need to be remedied.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The Law has been fundamentally revised. A number of concepts have been added, which are used for assessing the quality of air in other countries. Provisions related to technical regulation of emissions, record-registration of emissions, distribution of powers, etc. have been added.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Modern approaches to ambient air preservation will be stipulated by adoption of the Draft, in particular:

- a. with respect to the ambient air quality assessment;
the concept "critical level", as well as the methods for determination thereof, its application, definition of contamination monitoring and control powers,
- b. with respect to restriction on emissions from stationary sources;
application of the methods for determination of "the technical norms" and "the best available technologies",
- c. with respect to restriction on emissions from mobile sources; the prohibition requirements and the competencies to apply them,
- d. with respect to record-registration of emissions;

the provision on unified record-registration of emissions of harmful substances and greenhouse gases (from stationary and mobile sources).

Thus, harmonisation of the air quality assessment standards – common in the world and currently applicable in the country – for the purpose of restricting emissions, as well as of the demand for introduction of "the best available technologies" widely used in developed countries by combining it with the ecological (including territorial) principle of restriction on emissions will be carried out. It will make the management of ambient air preservation more

effective and will contribute to proper fulfilment of the obligations enshrined in the international treaties.

11.2. Action "Creating pre-requisites for the establishment of a unified system for record-registration of emissions of harmful substances and greenhouse gases (mobile and stationary sources)"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The direction "Elaborating a policy on ambient air preservation for reducing and limiting emissions" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, point 3 of the 2018-2022 Action Plan for Environmental Preservation and Management of Use of Natural Resources of Protocol Decision No 11 of the sitting of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 22 March 2018, as well as the Roadmap approved for the purpose of implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA), signed on 24 November 2017 and ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 11 April 2018 have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

Record-registration (cadastre) of greenhouse gas emissions is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Articles 4.1 and the Paris Agreement funded by the GEF, under co-ordination of the Ministry of Environment.

Having regard to the fact that data on emissions of harmful substances and greenhouse gases are currently used in different international and national processes, unified output data are needed for record-registration of emissions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Record-registration of emissions of harmful substances from stationary sources is carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On preservation of ambient air" (Article 36), Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 259 of 22 April 1999 "On approving the procedure for state record-registration of harmful impacts on ambient air" and the Order of the Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia (No 111-N of 22 August 2002, amended by No 450-N of 16 December 2008) "On approving the instruction for filling in the Administrative Statistical Report Form No 2-an (air) (annual) "On harmful substances emitted into the atmosphere from stationary sources" and the form of the Administrative Statistical Report Form No 2-an (air) (annual) "On harmful substances emitted into the atmosphere from stationary sources"".

Information on emissions is submitted annually, data are analysed and summarised through a computer programme.

Most of the data of the cadastre of greenhouse gases (GHG) is estimated based on the data being collected by the Statistical Committee. The cadastre is compiled/must be compiled/ biennially. In the GHG cadastre, only those harmful substances are included that have a greenhouse effect or are precursors of greenhouse gases, and they are not only from stationary but also from mobile sources, as well as from agriculture, land use and forestry, and the waste sector. Cadastres of greenhouse gases are developed on the basis of the Guideline for Inventory-Taking of Greenhouse Gases and the Best Practice

	<p>Guidelines of the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC).</p> <p>Data on harmful substances emitted into the atmosphere from stationary sources are summarised in the Form No 2-an reports and published in the National Statistical Service as official data, which differ from the cadastre publications.</p> <p>Studies show that comparable values may be achieved by using the same output data (from the same sources) and calculation methodology.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Improving the regulatory methodical base necessary for the record-registration process.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will make the management of ambient air preservation effective and will contribute to proper fulfilment of the obligations enshrined in the international treaties.</p>
12.	<p style="text-align: center;">Ensuring gradual reduction and limitation of the use of disposable polyethylene products</p> <p>12.1. Action “Adopting the Decision on approving the draft Law "On making supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On trade and services” by the Government”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The direction "Ensuring gradual reduction and limitation of the use of disposable polyethylene products" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and the Roadmap approved for the purpose of implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA), ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on 11 April 2018 have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.</p> <p>In the first stage of the process, polyethylene bags and sacks have been selected as a target group. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements to the Law "On trade and services"" (HO-226-N) was elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and adopted on 17 April 2020, according to which the sales (sale) of polyethylene sacks and bags with up to 50 micron thickness will be prohibited in trade facilities, trading areas and mobile shops from 1 January 2022, except for bags and sacks made from secondary raw material, as well as sacks for weighing and packaging.</p> <p>This may be viewed as the first and major step aimed at reducing the volumes of this product having a negative impact on the environment and human health. In the second stage, it is envisaged to study and elaborate, by using the same mechanism, a draft legal act prohibiting the sales (sale) of disposable plastic products.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the scope of execution of the assignment of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on inventory-taking of plastic containers, a format of</p>

	<p>inventory-taking of the full volume of plastic containers has been developed and submitted to all interested agencies (State Revenue Committee, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Statistical Committee) for the purpose of conducting brief analysis. Whereas, the responses received therefrom have shown that it is currently yet impossible to organise the process of inventory-taking of the full volume of plastic containers due to the lack of data.</p> <p>The Ministry has also applied to the UN Office in Armenia for the purpose of receiving assistance in the process of conducting relevant studies, research and analyses in the field of management of plastic products.</p> <p>Taking as a basis also the provisions of the Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment and the "Roadmap for Sustainability of Single-Use Plastics" elaborated within the scope of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ministry of Environment envisages to come up with relevant legislative initiatives with regard to other target groups of plastic items.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Making a supplement to the Law “On trade and services” envisages imposing prohibition of sales (sale) of a certain target group of disposable plastic items in trade facilities, trading areas and mobile shops.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring a legal basis for gradual reduction of the use of disposable plastic products.</p>
13.	<p>Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination</p> <p>13.1. Action "Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making supplements and amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘On environmental impact assessment and expert examination’” to the Office of the Prime Minister”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Section "Environment" of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA) have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.</p> <p>With the assistance for capacity development provided by the UNECE Secretariat, Armenia has implemented the Programme "Bringing the provisions of the</p>

Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) into compliance with the provisions of the national legislation, developing the national practice, elaborating the SEA guidelines, effectively conducting SEA in the Republic of Armenia", which was aimed at ensuring implementation of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Draft amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination" were elaborated; on 26 December 2017, the draft Law was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration. The Government of the Republic of Armenia has received recommendations and observations, works of reviewing the Draft are currently carried out.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Reviewing the draft amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination" and submitting them to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The concepts of the Law will be brought into compliance with the concepts of the Conventions.

Relevant amendments will be made to the assessment and expert examination principles in the Law. Several types of activities enshrined in the Conventions have been recommended for inclusion in the list of activities (Article 14). The Law will include the possibility for conducting expert examination upon initiative of the initiator, etc. The SEA will be separated from the EIA and presented in a separate chapter. The mechanisms for being subject to SEA in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol will be enshrined in the Law. The environmental and healthcare sectors will be removed from the list of fundamental documents subject to expert examination. A completely new edition of the Article "Public notification and holding consultations" will be presented.

As a result of implementation of the Action, the processes will be approximated to the international criteria, the processes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be regulated.

The processes will be brought into compliance with the provisions of the international conventions ratified by the Republic of Armenia.

As a result of implementation of the Actions, the processes not yet regulated by the Law will be regulated, which will make the processes of environmental impact assessment and expert examination more specific and transparent and will facilitate the activities of initiators and the bodies carrying out the management of the sector.

13.2.Action "Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the procedure for conducting strategic environmental assessment" to the Office of the Prime Minister"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and points 90.3, 90.4 and 92.5 of Section "Environment" of the Annex to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA) have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

With the assistance for capacity development provided by the UNECE Secretariat, Armenia has implemented the Programme "Bringing the provisions of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) into compliance with the provisions of the national legislation, developing the national practice, elaborating the SEA guidelines, effectively conducting SEA in the Republic of Armenia", which was aimed at ensuring implementation of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol.

Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On defining the procedure for conducting SEA" has been elaborated. Works of reviewing the Draft are currently carried out.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Reviewing the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the procedure for conducting strategic environmental assessment" and submitting it to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The SEA process will be removed from the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination", as a result of which the Law will be simplified.

Expert examination of the fundamental documents of all the spheres will also be simplified; it will be conducted only in the reporting stage. The process of expert examination of the planning documents of small areas in the urban development sector will be simplified.

As a result of implementation of the Action, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process will be regulated, approximated to the international criteria and brought into compliance with the provisions of the international conventions ratified by the Republic of Armenia, which will also make the expert examination process specific and transparent and will facilitate the activities of initiators and the bodies carrying out the management of the sector.

13.3. Action "Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the guideline for assessment of the impact on the environment and human health" to the Office of the Prime Minister"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia has served as a basis for the implementation of the Action, as well as the necessity to elaborate a draft Decision of the Government "On approving the guideline for assessment of the impact on the environment and human health" derives from the requirement of point 3 of Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination" of 21 June 2014.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaboration of the guideline for assessment of the impact on the environment and human health is necessary for accurately and reasonably organising the process of complete, cumulative assessment of possible impact on separate components of the environment, natural resources, possible changes in the conditions and on the volumes thereof as a result of performance of the envisaged activities, which is also a major principle of expert examination. The co-implementing agency participates in the organised discussions, presents relevant sector-specific recommendations.

For the purpose of effectively implementing the process of expert examination of the impact on the environment, harmonising the environmental legislation with the directives of the Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and expanding international co-operation in this context, a draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination"" was elaborated by the Ministry of Environment and submitted to the Government for consideration. In relation to the amendments to this Law for implementation of the processes of assessment of the environmental impact, it is appropriate to carry out elaboration of a draft Decision of the Government "On approving the guideline for assessment of the impact on the environment and human health" within a period of six months after the adoption of the above-mentioned Law.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Availability of the guideline for assessment of the impact on the environment and human health, organising the process of assessment accurately and reasonably, conducting expert examination properly, implementing the process of assessment of the impact on the environment and human health more effectively.

13.4. Action "Modernising observation networks for monitoring environmental components (ambient air, water resources, including freshwater and underground waters, soils, biodiversity) and waste disposal sites"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Section "Environment" of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA) have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

Availability of accurate assessments of the condition of the environment is an important basis for environmental protection, which are made as a result of monitoring of the components.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, for example, observations of ambient air pollution are made by means of a hybrid observation network. It consists of 16 active and automatic main stationary and 229 mobile (passive) sampling observation points. The observation points were re-equipped with automatic devices in 2006-2007. Many of these devices need complete repair or replacement, for which no funding is allocated by the State Budget. Besides, the existing number of the ambient air observation points and the type of pollutants continuously being determined in the observation points do not comply with the normative requirements of the Republic of Armenia (Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia 1120-N of 14 September 2017), such as, for example, the minimum number of observation points in the city of Gyumri must be three instead of the current one.

According to the requirements of the Republic of Armenia and the international requirements, monitoring must be conducted at the main stationary observation points for the main polluting substances — sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, suspended particles (PM10 and PM2.5) and ground-level ozone (secondary pollutant). Currently, in the Republic of Armenia, the list of the pollutants determined at the mobile and stationary observation points partially complies with the mentioned requirements. The information received from the observations of the air pollutants also partially complies with the international requirements from the point of view of real-time availability and time estimates.

The existing monitoring observation network for assessment of the underground freshwater resources needs to be expanded. Currently, there are no observation points of the National Hydrogeological Network in a number of river basins, including in Debed, Hakhum, Tavush, Khndzorut, Voghji, Meghri and other river basins, as well as in the foothills of the Ararat Artesian Basin.

Monitoring of soil contamination is conducted at only 10 observation points, which is not sufficient for assessing the complete picture of soil contamination.

AMD 725000.0 thousand is required for implementing the Programme, but the source of funding is not yet known.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For carrying out observations of the ambient air pollution with the modern technologies in the Republic of Armenia and bringing them into compliance with the standards of the Republic of Armenia and the international standards, it is necessary to replenish the observation points for monitoring of the ambient

air quality with automatic equipment for research of the main pollutants — sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, suspended particles (PM10 and PM2.5). Automation of observations of the ambient air will enable to get on-line information about the condition of air pollution, to quickly reveal the situations dangerous for human health and to predict the picture of further pollution.

In case of availability of funds, it will be possible to expand the national network of underground waters and the network for monitoring of soil contamination.

Setting a time limit for the 3rd ten-day period of November 2023 is conditioned by uncertainty of the funding source for 2020.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Availability of the observation stations and observation networks for monitoring of the environmental components equipped with the modern technologies and providing timely, accurate and continuous information on the environment.

13.5. Action "Capacity-building of the environmental monitoring laboratory"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring of environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Section "Environment" of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA) have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Laboratory research of the quality of the components is a source of accurate and reliable data on the environmental components. The laboratory of the "Environmental Monitoring and Information Center" SNCO operating under the subordination of the Ministry of Environment conducts laboratory research of the quality of surface and underground waters, ambient air, atmospheric precipitations, soils and deposits.

Since 2004, the laboratory has been replenished with modern equipment within the scope of the international and state programmes. The specialists of the laboratory have gained high-quality professional abilities due to many years of experience, as well as participation in qualification courses. The existing laboratory and professional abilities are a sufficient basis for international accreditation of the laboratory. However, the current facility conditions of the laboratory do not meet the necessary requirements (the laboratory is located in a rented area at 29 Komitas Street) for international accreditation of the laboratory.

Upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1584-A of 7 December 2017 "On taking back and attaching area", premises with a total

area of 539.1 square metres of the main block of the Institute of Chemical Physics located at 5/2 Paruyr Sevak Street of the city of Yerevan were allocated to the central laboratory of the "Environmental Monitoring and Information Center" SNCO, for the repair of which AMD 73542.0 thousand was allocated from the State Budget in 2018 for performance of the repair during 2019. Within the scope of the EU project "Water Initiative Plus", during 2021-2026, it is envisaged to replenish the equipment of the laboratory premises, train the specialists and prepare the process of international accreditation of the laboratory.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Reconstructing the premises with an area of 539.1 square metres within the scope of AMD 73542.0 thousand allocated to the "Environmental Monitoring and Information Center" SNCO during 2019 pursuant to point 2.2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1452-N of 13 December 2018 for capacity-building of the laboratory.

The implementation period is conditioned by extension of the periods for the international procurement processes with co-funding.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Availability of a repaired building for the environmental monitoring laboratories, replenished with modern equipment and of an internationally accredited laboratory.

13.6. Action "Establishing a unified information system on the environment"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring of environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Section "Environment" of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA) have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

With the support of the Project "European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument-Shared Environmental Information System" (ENPI-SEIS) in the Republic of Armenia, a unified information system on the environment in accordance with the SEIS principles is developed, whereby collection and publication of information on the environment will be carried out in a single platform, making it available and accessible to the public.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The thematic databases and indicator indices form the basis of the unified information system on the environment. Within the scope of the EU project "Water Initiative Plus", create databases within the water data organisations during 2019-2020, which will make a part of the Water Cadastre of the Ministry of Environment. The integration of the Water Cadastre and the portal will be developed with the support of the Project "European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument-Shared Environmental Information System" (ENPI-SEIS).

However, the processes of creating thematic databases of the other components of the environment are either in the planning stage or are missing.

The Action co-implementing bodies are creators of environmental information and the thematic databases existing therein will make a part of the portal being created.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Availability of a national environmental portal, availability of data on the environment jointly collected through use of modern information technologies and ensuring their accessibility.

13.7. Action "Introducing an electronic system for provision of licences and permits by the Ministry of Environment"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The direction "Improving the unified system for controlling and monitoring environmental protection, introducing unified and modern systems for permits and licences, co-ordinated management of primary information, improving the system of environmental impact assessment and expert examination, based on the principle of prevention, through the introduction of effective mechanisms aimed at improving the quality of expert examination" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Section "Environment" of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (CEPA), sub-point 10 of point 8 of Decision of the Government No 246-L of 27 February 2020 and Decision of the Government No 1408-L of 4 October 2019 have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

According to sub-point 4 of point 2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 90-N of 5 February 2015 and guided by the Procedure approved by point 5 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1524-N of 25 December 2014, the Ministry of Environment ensures in particular the issuance of water use permits, single time licences for the import and export of hazardous wastes, narcotic drugs, toxic substances not deemed to be precursors of psychotropic substances and ozone-depleting substances.

The Action is aimed at carrying out the issuance of licences and permits in the field of environmental protection through the electronic system.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Single time licences for the export and (or) import of goods subject to restriction in case of foreign trade by the Republic of Armenia are issued by the Ministry of Environment on paper. The rules of procedure for issuing licences and permits for the export and (or) import of goods subject to restriction in

	<p>case of foreign trade with third countries, of the Protocol of Annex 7 to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) prescribes that a licence may be issued (formulated) in the form of an electronic document as prescribed by the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), and prior to that — in accordance with the legislation of the EAEU member state. No procedures related to on-line submission of applications and required documents (information) for provision of licences and permits in the form of an electronic document and the issuance of licences and permits in the form of an electronic document are defined by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1524-N of 25 December 2014 and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 90-L of 5 February 2015.</p> <p>Currently, there are no financial means required for introduction by the Ministry of Environment of an electronic system for issuance of licences and permits. It is expected to receive financial means from other sources not prohibited by law.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the introduction of an electronic system for issuance of licences and permits by the Ministry of Environment, it is necessary to make relevant supplements to the regulatory legal acts regulating the issuance of single time licences and to ensure availability of the software and technical means necessary for operation of the electronic system.</p> <p>The co-implementing agencies of the Action are the Ministry of High-Tech Industry and "EKENG" CJSC (upon consent).</p> <p>Consultation and assistance of the co-implementing agencies are expected in the legal and technical issues related to introduction of the electronic system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will create an opportunity for submitting applications and required documents to the authorised body for single time licences through the electronic platform and for issuing electronic licences by the authorised body, which will reduce the time spent on document circulation and increase the work efficiency. Single time licences issued in the form of an electronic document will be available for the bodies carrying out customs release, as well as control of the given goods.</p>
14.	<p>Modernising the system of hydrometeorology and environmental permanent monitoring through the application of the latest technologies for observations</p> <p>14.1. Action "Modernising the sub-systems of hydrometeorological observations, forecasting, processing, analysis, archiving and provision of information, developing quality and accessibility mechanisms for services provided"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The direction "Modernising the system of hydrometeorology and environmental permanent monitoring through the application of the latest technologies for observations" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and Action 2.3 of the List of Actions approved by the Annex to Decision of Government of the Republic of Armenia No 749-A of 13 May 2021 "On approving the National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and the List of Actions for 2021-2025" have served as a basis for the implementation of</p>

the Action.

The Action is aimed at capacity-building for assessment and forecasting of climate change and hydrometeorological phenomena and for development of information provision programmes through modernising the hydrometeorological service and at increasing the resistance of Armenia to climate change and adaptation. For the purpose of increasing effectiveness of the operation of the system for early warning on dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena and for quick response thereto, it is necessary to establish a unified base for record-registration, analysis and archiving of losses and damages caused by hydrometeorological phenomena, as well as to create a system for registering and transferring of information.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

There are currently 46 meteorological stations, 7 river basin hydrological stations with 94 hydrological observation points operating within the system of the State Hydrometeorological Service of Armenia. Hydrometeorological observations are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the regulatory documents of the World Meteorological Organisation; however, 70-80% of the professional tools and equipment currently operated in the state observation network are obsolescent and physically depreciated, and the network is in dire need of re-equipment. For having a developed and regularly updated hydrometeorological structure integrated in the Global Observation Network, it is necessary to technically re-equip and modernise the hydrometeorological state observation network, introduce information technologies, modernise the system for collection and exchange of information, introduce new software packages for data processing and management, which will contribute to improvement of the provision of hydrometeorological information and timely and reliable data on the condition of the environment to the state and territorial administration bodies, as well as local self-government bodies, the population and the branches of the economy, to reduction of possible losses of the economy, life, health and property of the population from dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena and to development of the system for assessment and forecasting of hydrometeorological observations.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Modernising the sub-systems of hydrometeorological observations, forecasting, processing, analysis, archiving and provision of information, developing management, organisational and personnel capacities, including instructing forecasting models, in particular:

- Implementing modernisation of technical means of "Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Service" SNCO and replenishment with new equipment, organising courses for the purpose of developing capacities and skills of the employees,
- installing automatic hydrometeorological stations and creating a system for registering, transferring and visualising of information,
- establishing a unified system for record-registration, analysis and archiving of losses and damages caused by hydrometeorological phenomena and ensuring access to information.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, development and modernisation of technical and professional capacities of the Hydrometeorological Service are expected to ensure an effective system for relevant forecasts and provision of information. Installing automatic hydrometeorological stations and creating a system for registering, transferring and visualising of information. Establishing a unified system for record-registration, analysis and archiving of losses and

	<p>damages caused by hydrometeorological phenomena and ensuring access to information.</p> <p>Modernising the sub-systems of hydrometeorological observations, forecasting, processing, analysis, archiving and provision of information, developing management, organisational and personnel capacities, including instructing forecasting models.</p>
15.	<p>Improving the existing economic mechanisms for environmental protection through the introduction of the principle of adequate compensation for the damage caused, as well as the implementation of a number of legislative and institutional changes aimed at prevention, mitigation and neutralisation</p> <p>15.1. Action "Adopting the Decision of the Government on approving the draft legislative package within the scope of approximation to the Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage by the Government"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The direction "Improving the existing economic mechanisms for environmental protection through the introduction of the principle of adequate compensation for the damage caused, as well as the implementation of a number of legislative and institutional changes aimed at prevention, mitigation and neutralisation" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the fulfilment of the commitments assumed under points 93.1 and 93.2 of the Roadmap approved by Decision of the Prime Minister No 666-L of 1 June 2018 "On approving the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States" have served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.</p> <p>According to the commitments assumed under the mentioned points, the legislation of the Republic of Armenia must, by the end of 2026, be approximated to the requirements prescribed by Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage caused.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of mitigating, preventing and remedying the damages caused to the environment within the scope of fulfilment of this point, it is envisaged to elaborate a legislative package on the procedures for prevention and elimination of the damage caused to the environment, as well as on introduction of a mechanism for liabilities of the polluter to incur the expenses aimed at prevention and elimination of the damage.</p> <p>The main principle of the mentioned Directive is that the producers whose activities have caused damage to the environment, or there is an immediate risk of such damage, must be subjected to financial liability, which will instigate them to take measures and carry out such activities that will minimise the damage caused to the environment so that they are subjected to less financial liability.</p> <p>Application of the mentioned principle is regulated to some extent by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, while it is necessary to review the current</p>

	<p>rates and the scope of economic levers and mechanisms.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the mentioned issue, the first stage envisages revealing the scope of the legal acts, which must be reviewed within the scope of approximation.</p> <p>Large-scale legislative analysis will be conducted, based on the results whereof a number of amendments to the existing legal acts will be developed, according to the preliminary analyses: in particular, to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia, the Law "On tariffs of compensation for damage caused to the fauna and flora as a result of environmental offences", as well as Decisions of the Government No 91-N and 92-N adopted on 25 January 2005 and Decision of the Government No 1110-N of 14 August 2003.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to have legal acts complying with the principles enshrined in the EU directives within the scope of fulfilment of the commitments assumed by the Republic of Armenia.</p>
16.	<p>Public awareness-raising of the actions and programmes being implemented in the sector of environmental protection, implementing large-scale actions for eco-education, culture and upbringing, ensuring transparency of activities of the sector, enhancing the role of innovative technologies, by ensuring close co-operation with the academic and scientific sectors</p> <p>16.1. Action "Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia 'On environmental education and upbringing [of the population]'" to the Office of the Prime Minister"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The direction "Public awareness-raising of the actions and programmes being implemented in the sector of environmental protection, implementing large-scale actions for eco-education, culture and upbringing, ensuring transparency of the activities of the sector, enhancing the role of innovative technologies, by ensuring close co-operation with the academic and scientific sectors" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia has served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.</p> <p>The Action is aimed at improving the system of environmental education, upbringing and awareness-raising in the Republic of Armenia and clarifying the competencies of state administration bodies for improving the quality of environmental education, raising the level of public awareness and forming environmental consciousness.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is still a lack of harmonious application of laws and principles in the field, which is conditioned by insufficient clarification of the competencies of the state authorised bodies of the system of environmental education and inefficient co-operation. Insufficient attention is paid to the harmony of environmental education in family and pre-school institutions, as well as to the continuity of environmental education at the general education level. It must be</p>

implemented from elementary school to high school inclusively. Necessity has arisen to improve the legislative base of the field, integrate the ideas and principles of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in the field of environmental education, review and clarify the powers of state administration bodies.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The following is necessary for effective solution of the issues of the field:

- Ensuring the continuity of environmental education, increasing and optimising the effectiveness of the management of the field,
- Ensuring accessibility of environmental education and awareness for the general public,
- Close co-operation between state administration bodies, implementation of a common policy.

Conducting joint discussions with the employees of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports about making amendments to the Articles of the Law, reviewing and clarifying the powers of state administration bodies.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The legislation on environmental education and the management system thereof will be improved, an effective operating system of environmental education complying with the principles of sustainable development will be established.

16.2.Action "Implementing the project "Engaging Future Leaders: Digital Education Module on Adaptation Challenges and Best Practices for Youth"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The direction "Public awareness-raising of the actions and programmes being implemented in the sector of environmental protection, implementing large-scale actions for eco-education, culture and upbringing, ensuring transparency of activities of the sector, enhancing the role of innovative technologies, by ensuring close co-operation with the academic and scientific sectors" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia has served as a basis for the implementation of the Action.

Currently, there are no gamified digital education modules on environmental issues for high school pupils in the Republic. Under such conditions, schoolchildren are not able to fully meet their demands for the current state of multiple environmental issues and their possible solutions. This naturally has a negative effect on diversification of the accessible ways of acquiring knowledge by pupils, as a result of which pupils have limited understanding of the environmental issues the country faces and of the ways to solve them.

The Action is aimed at creating an accessible and interesting gamified digital education module for high school pupils, which will be available to all the

	<p>schools in the Republic.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The high school pupils of the Republic do not have sufficient possibilities for receiving accessible information about the environmental issues of the Republic and the ways to solve them. Under such conditions, the material instructed in the school becomes relatively difficult to master, as it is not combined with practical and demonstrative activities. The Action being implemented is aimed at solving this issue.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For high school pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a gamified digital education module will be developed, • opinions and information will be collected from at least 5.000 pupils and specialists of the field of education, • an enhanced on-line trilingual mobile application (iOS and Android) will be created, • an on-line competition will be organised, the 40 winners of which will take part in the activities of the "Adaptation Experimental Laboratory". <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The following will be created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a trilingual mobile application on environmental issues, • a database of opinions of high school pupils and specialists of the field of education. <p>The Action will contribute to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising the level of interest and awareness of schoolchildren on environmental issues and possible solutions, • increasing schoolchildren's knowledge of the climate change challenges and adaptation.
17.	<p>Development and implementation of a policy aimed at promoting the long-term goal for green economy and sustainable development</p> <p>17.1. Action "Adopting Decision of the Government "On approving the environmental protection strategy"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Direction "Development and implementation of a policy aimed at promoting the long-term goal for green economy and sustainable development" of Section 4.10 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia served, as well as part 8 of Article 11 of the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government" as a basis for the implementation of the action.</p>

<p>The main objective of the action is to establish a comprehensive strategic framework for environmental protection, providing a vision of sustainable long-term management of the environment, including its individual components.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The main strategic documents of the sector of environmental protection are:</p> <p>1 2021-2026 Five-year programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, which stipulates the priority directions of the sector in the section of the environmental protection.</p> <p>2 EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, according to which approximation measures of the national legislation on environmental protection, quality restoration, waste management, air quality, water resources, biodiversity, environmental impact assessment, environmental responsibility are stipulated in Sections "Environment" and "Climate change". The measures stipulated in the section of climate change are specifically aimed at fulfilling the obligations arising from the Paris Agreement, reducing and preventing climate changes due to ozone-depleting substances, and increasing the effectiveness of measures of mitigation and prevention of climate change.</p> <p>The above-mentioned documents are guidelines and priorities, but do not actually stipulate the main principles of the development of the sector, tools, targets, implementation risks, problems and short-term, medium-term and long-term measures for their solution. The recommendation to have a unified sectoral strategy is stipulated in the recommendations of the second Environmental Performance Review of Armenia approved by the Environmental Policy Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 2022.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Currently, a number of sectoral (biodiversity, forest, specially protected areas of nature, water resources, etc.) strategic documents need to be updated. At the same time, in a number of sub-sectors (atmospheric air, waste, soils, eco-education, etc.), the decisive strategic documents are missing. Having the aim of regulating the environmental protection system, it is recommended to develop a comprehensive strategy, defining the main principles of the field, tools, implementation risks, problems and directions for their solution for all components of the environment.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Development, approval and implementation of environmental protection strategy will provide an opportunity to ensure long-term results of sustainable management of the environment, including its individual components/improvement of qualitative and quantitative indicators of natural resources, reduction of pollution, prevention, mitigation of the harmful man-made impact on the environment, application of resource-saving, waste-free and low-waste technologies, mitigation of effects of climate change, etc./</p> <p>The strategy, as a comprehensive strategic framework of the sector, will contribute to the sustainable economic development of the country, overcoming environmental challenges and reducing poverty.</p>
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Ministry of Defence	
NN	RATIONALE
1.	<p>Establishing Armed Forces complying with the military and political situation, the estimated (projected) level of military threats and the nature of possible military operations</p> <p>1.1. Optimising the staff-related structures of the structural subdivisions of the Ministry of Defence and of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, clarifying and distributing the functions</p> <p>1.2. Reviewing the composition and structure of the military formations, unions, military units and subdivisions</p> <p>1.3. Elaborating draft legislative amendments necessary for the introduction of new structures of the structural subdivisions of the Ministry of Defence and of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</u></p> <p>Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to clarify the functions of the Ministry of Defence and of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, to optimise the composition and structure of the structural subdivisions and to join the military government bodies performing repeated functions (sub-point 3 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There are structural subdivisions performing similar functions within the system of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, the composition and structure of the military units and subdivisions do not fully comply with the requirements for preparation and conduct of modern military operations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Optimising the staff-related structures of the structural subdivisions of the Ministry of Defence and of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, clarifying and distributing the functions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result, we will have Armed Forces with a new structure, complying with the modern requirements and vested with high mobility, which will result in increase of the effectiveness of use of the Armed Forces.</p>
2.	<p>Replenishing the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia with modern armaments and military equipment, replenishing the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia with armaments and military equipment complying with the reviewed composition and structure</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p>

	<p>Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to arm the Armed Forces for the purpose of counteracting the military threats and complying with the nature of possible military operations (sub-point 4 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Armed Forces were formerly replenished with outdated armaments and military equipment, most of which were inherited from the former USSR and did not ensure the fulfilment of tasks during military operations, and we obviously lag behind the enemy in terms of replenishment.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Arm the Armed Forces with modern armaments, military equipment and technical means.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>The reconnaissance, fire engagement and evasion capacities of the troops will increase.</p>
3.	<p>Modernising the management system of the Armed Forces and increasing the management efficiency</p> <p>3.1. Continuing improvement of the communication system</p> <p>3.2. Continuing the works of modernisation of the automated management system (with stationary and mobile elements) with subsystems of management of the types of troops and services</p> <p>3.3 Increasing the role of the commanders, autonomy of the subdivisions, motivation and pro-activeness of the staff</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p> <p>Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity of structural and operational improvement of the management system of the Armed Forces (sub-point 2 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the management system does not fully meet the requirements for management of the troops.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Continue the works of improvement of the communication system and modernisation of the automated management system.</p> <p>2 Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>The system must, as appropriate, ensure decentralisation of management of the troops and the combining thereof with centralised management, increase in</p>

	stability, efficiency, continuity and coherency of the management of troops, advancement in the decision-making process against the enemy.
4.	<p>Establishing a system for strategic planning of the sector of defence, making legislative amendments aimed at solving the national problems and specifying the procedures for organising defence</p> <p><i>4.1. Making necessary legislative amendments and forming a single general concept for the defence of the state for elaboration of the documents of the sector for planning the defence of the state (Plan for Use of the Armed Forces, Plan for Deployment of the Armed Forces, Plan for Development of the Armed Forces, Plan for Operative Equipment of Territorial Protection, Mobilisation Plan, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>4.2. Elaborating a new draft Military Doctrine and submitting it for the approval of the Security Council</i></p> <p>4.3. Elaborating a package of draft amendments to a number of laws of the Republic of Armenia relating to the sector of defence</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity to solve the national problems of the sector of defence, specify the procedures for organising defence and improve the toolkits and procedures for preparing the State for defence (sub-point 2 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>Necessity for the package of draft Laws is conditioned by the circumstance of vesting the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia with the competence to approve a number of fundamental acts on the Armed Forces, terminating the status of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia as a subordinate state body in the process of systemic changes in the structure of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia and including it in the structure of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, defining, within the scope thereof, specifics of the activities of the General Staff of the Armed Forces and of the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces within the scope of ensuring the command vertical, administration and management of the Armed Forces in the process of defence of the Republic of Armenia in line with the provisions of the first, second, third, fourth, sixth, seventh paragraphs and points 2, 3 and 5 of Section 1.3 "Sector of defence, reforms of the Armed Forces" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>There is no clear strategic planning algorithm of the sector of defence at the national level in the Republic of Armenia, and the sequence of elaborating strategies, plans and programmes is not regulated under the legislation neither in terms of time nor subordination.</p> <p>Within the scope of systemic changes in the structure of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the specifics of the activities of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia as an official carrying out administration of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, necessity has arisen to have a new Law "On defence", unite the General Staff of the Armed Forces with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, as a result of which the General Staff of the Armed Forces will act as an office of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, having the functions of a central military management body, clarify the scope of powers of the Ministry and the General Staff, conditioned by the specifics of the General Staff as a central military management body of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, envisage the fact</p>

	<p>that the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces will act as the First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, as well as to envisage, for this purpose, necessary regulations and peculiarities also in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the legal regime of martial law", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the structure and activities of the Government", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On public service", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On bodies of the state administration system" and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On regulation of administrative legal relations".</p> <p>In relation to adoption of the package of the draft Laws, it will be necessary to make relevant amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 580-A of 30 May 2018, repeal Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 922-L of 4 July 2019, review Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 992-L of 25 July 2019 and a number of other acts of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Security Council.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborate a single unified State Defence Plan with its constituent parts (also based on the opinion of the specialists of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation). According to the package of the draft Laws, the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On defence" will be restated, within the scope of which the powers of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the Security Council in the process of adoption of ruling documents in the sector of defence will be clarified, structural changes in the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia and in the General Staff of the Armed Forces, the scope of the powers and the status of the General Staff of the Armed Forces will be defined, the relations pertaining to mobilisation and its preparation will be defined by a separate law, necessary regulations and peculiarities conditioned by changes in the defence system will be defined in the relevant laws regulating the activities of the state administration system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Availability of a set of interrelated documents in the sector of defence, with development of a single unified document with its constituent parts. Adoption of the package of the draft Laws will ensure fulfilment of the requirements of Section 1.3 "Sector of defence, reforms of the Armed Forces" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, the defence system will be formed in accordance with the security issues, and the degree of defence capacity of the country will increase.</p>
5.	<p>Bringing the current system of mobilisation preparation, reserve preparation and mobilisation into compliance with the modern requirements</p> <p>5.1. Reviewing the system of mobilisation and its preparation, improving the system of reserve preparation</p> <p>5.2. Create a unified base of record-registration of citizens</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring security of the country, necessity has arisen to review and improve the system of mobilisation preparation, reserve preparation and mobilisation (sub-point 5 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p>

	<p>Necessity for the Action is conditioned by the creation of a common unified automated database for the purpose of operationally exchanging data (sub-point 5 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current system of mobilisation preparation and mobilisation does not sufficiently ensure the military security of the State, the shortcomings and negative aspects of which were obvious throughout the 44-day war.</p> <p>The current sources (except for the unified database) of receiving information on record-registration, removal from record-registration, military call-up for compulsory military service, record-registration in the reserve, as well as inclusion of citizens in the mobilisation measures are not sufficient for rapid and effective performance of the functions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Review the operating systems and improve the system for preparation of the reserve servicemen.</p> <p>Create a unified database of record-registration of citizens, based on the demand for the service, its great social and public significance and wide coverage.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>We will have a specified system of mobilisation preparation, reserve preparation and mobilisation.</p> <p>Creation of the above-mentioned system will significantly increase the level and completeness of military record-registration of the reserve servicemen, effectiveness of the works of organising and conducting military call-up and of enlisting the necessary specialists to the troops, will contribute to effective management of the mobilisation resources.</p>
6.	<p>Introducing a territorial defence system in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>Making amendments and supplements to the Law "On defence" and other laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as make administrative-territorial division and create a territorial defence administration body</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity to regulate the issues of the sector of territorial defence, the composition of forces and means, their administration bodies, the procedure for application thereof in a single unified document (sub-point 2 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Territorial defence is not established in the Republic of Armenia, and the concept "Territorial defence" is not defined by the legislation of the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia. Issues related to territorial defence are indirectly reflected in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On defence", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Police Troops", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Border Guard Troops", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Rescue Service of Armenia" and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On civil defence subdivisions".</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Make relevant amendments and supplements to the Laws of the Republic of Armenia, as well as make administrative-territorial division and create a territorial defence administration body.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will ensure co-ordination of the issues of the sector. We will have a territorial defence system, which will enable to reliably protect the internal regions, population, infrastructure and the most important objects of the country from possible encroachments of the enemy during wars, to grant commanders of the military formations with real levers in the zones of responsibility.</p>
7.	<p>Optimising the military infrastructure and improving the places of location of the troops</p> <p>7.1. Bringing the military infrastructure and the places of location of the troops into compliance with the normative requirements</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity of works for improvement of the living and facility conditions and optimisation of dislocation sites of the troops (point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The newly formed military units are not furnished with appropriate constructions, the state of the military infrastructures is on an insufficient level.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Improve the dislocation sites of the formations, military units and subdivisions, develop the road network.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>The facility conditions and the utility and household conditions of military servicemen will be improved, the possibilities of striking by the enemy will be reduced, the military infrastructures will be developed.</p>
8.	<p>Increasing the level of moral and psychological preparation of the Armed Forces, the role of the commander, ensuring military discipline and reducing non-statutory relations</p> <p>8.1. Developing the necessary moral qualities of a military serviceman in the Armed Forces, strengthen the psychological stability and preparedness to</p>

lead combat operations. Increasing the level of military discipline and minimising non-statutory relations within the Armed Forces

8.2. Equipping the psychological support points and the barrier zones for psychological overcoming in a specified number of military units

8.3. Elaborating a draft “On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘Disciplinary Code of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia’”

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions

Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to increase the level of moral and psychological preparation of the Armed Forces and to equip the psychological support points and psychological overcoming barrier zones of the military units (point 8 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).

Necessity for the draft Law is conditioned by the circumstance of ensuring a high degree of statutory relations within the Armed Forces, improving moral and psychological state, clarifying the disciplinary powers of commanders (chiefs), their rights and responsibilities and those of their subordinate staff, the measures of disciplinary liability and the procedure for appealing against the disciplinary penalties imposed in line with the provisions of the second paragraph and point 8 of Section 1.3 "Sector of defence, reforms of the Armed Forces" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Despite the fact that large-scale works are being carried out in the Armed Forces for strengthening the military discipline, the number of negative phenomena, violations of statutory order and of cases in general continues to increase in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, which is more noticeable after the 44-day war, as well as the psychological support points and the psychological overcoming barrier zones of the military units are underequipped.

The process of applying the effective Law has revealed a number of issues in the relations pertaining to exercise of the disciplinary right by commanders (chiefs), application of incentives and disciplinary penalties, assessment of disciplinary offences and their comparison with criminal and administrative offences, conducting proceedings on imposing penalties, selection of the types of penalties for specific disciplinary offences and appealing against the disciplinary penalties imposed.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Providing appropriate psychological support to military servicemen.

According to the draft Law, it is recommended to clarify, by restating the Disciplinary Code of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, the disciplinary powers of commanders (chiefs), their rights and responsibilities and those of their subordinate staff, the types of incentives and disciplinary penalties, the procedures for applying them and appealing against the disciplinary penalties imposed.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>The discipline and moral and volitional level of military servicemen in the Armed Forces, the degree of preparedness of military servicemen to conduct active combat operations will increase.</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Law will ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 1.3 "Sector of defence, reforms of the Armed Forces" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, disciplinary legal relations in the process of organising military service will be of higher level, and disciplinary offences during military service will be reduced.</p>
9.	<p>Continuously improving the complementary system of fixed-term compulsory and contractual military service, expanding the professional military service system</p> <p>9.1. Elaborating the package of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘On military service and the status of the military servant’” and the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia ‘On remuneration for persons holding state positions and state service positions’”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the package of the draft Laws is conditioned by the circumstance of ensuring enforcement of the provisions of the second, sixth, seventh paragraphs and points 1, 9 and 10 of Section 1.3 "Sector of defence, reforms of the Armed Forces" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, with a view to improving the legislative regulations for organisation of military service, promoting the process of development of professional military service, by reducing, within the scope thereof, the period of compulsory military service, increasing the level of social protection of military servicemen, persons equivalent thereto and their family members and the amounts of cash payments of contract military servicemen for the purpose of ensuring the attractiveness of military service.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Relations pertaining to organisation of military service are in a process of ongoing development, and there is unambiguous necessity for their legislative regulation in accordance with the current requirements and the tasks set before the Armed Forces.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>According to the package of the draft Laws, relations pertaining to organisation of military service — staff-related processes, the rights and responsibilities, certification of military servicemen, reduction of the period of compulsory military service and exercise of the social guarantees of military servicemen, persons equivalent thereto and their family members, will be clarified, the amounts of cash payments of contract military servicemen will be increased.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the package of the draft Laws will ensure fulfilment of the requirements of Section 1.3 "Sector of defence, reforms of the Armed Forces" of the</p>

	<p>Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and increase the attractiveness of military service.</p>
10.	<p>Expanding possibilities of the existing procedures for international co-operation and collective security</p> <p>10.1. Continue activities aimed at elucidating the existing procedures for collective defence within the Republic of Armenia-Russian Federation and CSTO framework (2021-2024)</p> <p>10.2. Strengthening simultaneously with the combat capabilities of the joint (united) Republic of Armenia-Russian Federation and CSTO forces and the degree of interoperability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia (2021-2024)</p> <p>10.3. Conducting military and political consultations in the multilateral and bilateral formats</p> <p>10.4. Ensuring the involvement of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia in the international operations</p> <p>10.5. Providing consultation and expert support for the reforms of the defence system of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>10.6. Developing the military-technical co-operation with the allied and partner countries (2021-2024)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to improve the existing mechanisms for allied and partner relations, replenish the Armed Forces with modern armaments and other material means, ensure fulfilment of the international commitments assumed and bring the reforms of the defence system to life (sub-point 4 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There are some uncertainties in the existing mechanisms for international military-political and military co-operation regarding the mutual commitments and the conditions for the implementation thereof. At the same time, the process of replenishing the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia with modern products of military significance requires ensuring uninterrupted military-technical co-operation. It is also necessary to increase the degree of interoperability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. However, there is a task of ensuring the continuity of provision of international advanced consultation and expert support for the reforms of the defence system of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to improve the existing procedures for collective defence within the Republic of Armenia-Russian Federation and CSTO framework, develop the capabilities of joint planning and use of forces, continue the implementation of initiative military-political, military and military-technical co-operation in the multilateral and bilateral formats, increase the degree of interoperability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, as well as make the consultation and expert support for the reforms of the defence system more targeted.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Developing military-political alliances and partnerships by maintaining the balance of formation of relations deriving from the national interests of the Republic of Armenia and based on the military-political commonalities.</p>
	<p>With regard to expansion of capabilities of existing procedures for international co-operation and safety:</p> <p>1. Carry out activities aimed at developing multilateral and balanced defence activities (2025-2026)</p> <p>2. Increase the degree of interoperability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia (2025-2026)</p> <p>3. Continue the diversification process of military-technical co-operation (2025-2026)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the necessity to improve the existing mechanisms for partner relations, replenishing the Armed Forces with modern armaments and other material means, ensure fulfilment of the international commitments assumed and actualising reforms of the defence system (sub-point 4 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There are some uncertainties in the existing mechanisms for International military-political and military co-operation regarding the mutual commitments and the conditions for the implementation thereof. At the same time, the process of replenishing the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia with modern products of military significance requires ensuring uninterrupted military-technical co-operation. It is also necessary to increase the degree of interoperability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to carry out activities aimed at developing and revising the defence procedures, continue the implementation of initiative military-political, military and military-technical co-operation in the multilateral and bilateral formats, increase the degree of interoperable capacities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Developing military-political alliances and partnerships by maintaining the balance of formation of relations deriving from the national interests of the Republic of Armenia and based on the military-political commonalities.</p>
11.	<p>Strengthening the protection of human rights and integrity within the Armed Forces</p> <p>11.1. Introducing the educational programme "Good Governance and Building Integrity in the Defence and Related Security Sector" and the revised</p>

curriculum of the subject "Human Rights of Armed Forces Personnel" at the Centre for Raising Qualification of Officers and the Faculty of Command Staff of the Military Educational Establishments of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia

11.2. Organising courses on the protection of the rights of women, providing the subdivisions of the Armed Forces with information materials on civil and political rights

11.3. Developing co-operation with organisations conducting monitoring and exercising civil supervision in the defence sector

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions

Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to develop the defence resources management skills of commanders and chiefs of different ranks, strengthen the individual and institutional capabilities of the staff, increase effectiveness of the fight against corruption, define the main directions, benchmarks, goals and objectives of the fight against corruption based on the concept created, review the curricula taught at the military educational establishments, promote the protection of women's rights and ensuring of equal opportunities in the sector of defence, as well as increase the level of legal consciousness of the staff of the Armed Forces and establish the culture of legal education and legal behaviour (Main Benchmarks of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The programme of the Centre for Raising Qualification of Officers and the Faculty of Command Staff of the Military Educational Establishments of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia did not include topics on strengthening integrity and preventing corruption. Comprehensive works are currently carried out in several directions for the purpose of strengthening integrity and counteracting the corruption risks in the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. There is an effective mechanism for alerting to prima facie corruption cases/crimes within the structure of the Ministry.

According to the requirement of point 1 of the 2020-2022 Action Plan deriving from the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1978-A of 26 December 2019, the Ministry of Defence has elaborated the subject "Human Rights in the Armed Force" and included it in the curricula of the military education institutions, as well as the teaching staff of the military education institutions has undergone training, and publication of the textbook with the same name has been planned.

Currently, legislative guarantees for having equal rights and assuming responsibilities for women and men are enshrined in the legislation, including opportunities for receiving military vocational education, being admitted to state service in the system of defence, admitted to service in the Armed Forces, appointed to a position, re-qualification and promotion.

Awareness-raising measures on human rights are conducted and courses are organised in different subdivisions of the Armed Forces.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaboration and introduction of the programmes must be based on the best international practice.

It is recommended to ensure the continuous education of the staff of the Armed Forces on human rights, carry out consistent works for analysing the

	<p>problems of military servicewomen and wives of military servicemen and for studying the reasons that hinder their quick integration into the military environment. Development and introduction of an IT application for anonymous reporting of human rights violations and corruption cases will provide an opportunity for raising the level of awareness of military servicemen on the one hand and for preventing the increase of cases on the other hand.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Actions, the level of awareness of commanding staff on integrity, prevention of corruption and fight against it will increase, officers having undergone training will use the acquired knowledge and skills during their service, quicker and more effective responses will be provided to reports and alerts on prima facie corruption cases/crimes, the enforcement of the provisions on fight against corruption of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will be ensured, implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Sector of Defence of the Republic of Armenia and the Action Plan deriving therefrom will reveal the benchmarks, principles, objectives and issues of the anti-corruption policy of the sector of defence and the ways to solve them, which will make the fight against corruption more effective.</p> <p>Awareness of the international principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms will be raised among attendees of the military educational establishments, they will also acquire and develop skills which will contribute to the respect and protection of human rights in the performance of their functions and responsibilities within the Armed Forces, as well as to prevention of cases of ill-treatment resulting from non-statutory relations (culture of rejecting the legal regulations and manifestation of behaviour based on "the criminal value system").</p> <p>The level of awareness of legal equality between women and men among the staff of the Armed Forces will increase, the number of women involved in different subdivisions of the Armed Forces will increase. As a result of the works performed, the number of cases of violations of women's rights will decrease.</p> <p>Awareness of military servicemen about their rights will increase, they will get to know the legal means to protect them, which may have a preventive role in the matters of human rights violations, as well as will contribute to increase of the level of moral and psychological preparation of the staff of the Armed Forces, and in the long-term perspective — to reinforcement of combat readiness of the Armed Forces.</p> <p>Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to strengthen the culture of integrity and discipline in the Armed Forces, raise the level of awareness of the staff of the Armed Forces, establish culture of legal education and legal behaviour, disclose human rights and corruption cases in the Armed Forces (Main Benchmarks of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>Enforcement of the provisions on fight against corruption of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will be ensured. Awareness of the staff on integrity, prevention of corruption, fight against corruption, as well as the international principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia will increase.</p> <p>Opportunity will be created to respond more quickly and effectively to reports and alerts about prima facie corruption cases/crimes.</p>
12.	Developing and implementing the main directions and priorities of the state policy in the field of military education, increasing competitiveness of the

	<p>military education system, developing military science</p> <p>12.1. Establishing merit-based and flexible competition procedures for selection of lecturers with military specialisation</p> <p>12.2. Developing and adopting a programme aimed at increasing the attractiveness of military education and the schedule for implementation thereof</p> <p>12.3. Reviewing the forms of planning and conducting military operations</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p> <p>Implementation of the Action derives from Articles 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education” and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On higher and postgraduate professional education”, respectively, and from Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On scientific and scientific-technical activities" (sub-point 6 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The number of applicants of the military and sports colleges and military educational establishments has decreased, and researchers of the military educational establishments do not receive additional payments for the academic degrees.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating procedures for selection of lecturers with military specialisation, measures and a schedule aimed at increasing the attractiveness of military education for the applicants, mechanisms for providing additional payments to the academic and teaching staff.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>Through elaboration of procedures for selection of lecturers with military specialisation, measures and a schedule aimed at increasing the attractiveness of military education for the applicants, the Armed Forces will be staffed with knowledgeable cadres, the effectiveness of selection of the academic and teaching staff will increase, and the process of engagement thereby in scientific, scientific-technical and innovative activities will be promoted.</p>
13.	<p>Reforming the sector of information security and cybersecurity, effectively implementing actions for monitoring, analysis, information counteracting and warfare against information threats and challenges, improving the legislative field</p> <p>13.1. Expanding the quick response groups for cyber attack cases for the purpose of exchanging information on the information security and cyber attack cases with the interested agencies and organisations of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>13.2. Raising the level of public awareness, ensuring the process of counteracting the campaign aimed at the targeting negative information flows and the social, national and religious hatred and discrediting of the Armed Forces by a potential adversary</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions</u></p>

	<p>Implementation of the Actions is conditioned by the necessity to develop and implement the main directions and priorities in the sector of ensuring the information security of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, define measures aimed at ensuring the information security and solving the problems of military bodies, reform the sector of information security and cyber security and improve the legislative field for the purpose of effectively implementing actions for monitoring, analysis, information counteracting and warfare against information threats and challenges (sub-point 7 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current concept paper on the information security and policy of the Republic of Armenia does not ensure fulfilment of the tasks. In recent years, conditioned by the ongoing processes, states have paid greater attention and have given more priority to ensuring information security, harmonising the legislative regulations, counteracting possible threats and challenges in this sector, as well as regulating the information legal relations. The Concept Paper on the Information Security and Information Policy and conceptual, strategic and other legal documents relating to formation of the electronic society, the fight against cyber-terrorism, ensuring of cyber security, protection of personal data and ensuring of information security have been adopted. The Republic of Armenia has ratified agreements in the field of information security with international organisations and separate states, implements joint programmes within the scope of interstate co-operation, as well as co-operation with the CIS, CSTO, EU, CoE and NATO. The measures taken by the Republic of Armenia in the sector of ensuring information security have not fully prevented and neutralised the new threats and challenges of information security. The relations related to the creation and dissemination of information, the use of information technologies, the creation and operation of information systems, as well as the protection of information are not yet fully regulated and need legal regulation, the classification of information, the scopes of management of the information technologies and information protection are not properly defined, and the legal regulations aimed at ensuring international co-operation and mutual assistance and the clear means of their implementation need to be enshrined in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to improve the toolkit for monitoring and analysis of information threats and challenges, expand the teams of quick response to cyber-terrorism cases and raise the level of public awareness.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Actions</p> <p>The scope of possible restrictions on freedom of speech, publications and reports at the time of declaring martial law will be defined, effectiveness of the teams of quick response to cyber-terrorism cases in emergency situations will increase, a system for counteracting the negative information flows targeting the Republic of Armenia, providing complete and accurate information to the public and implementing a common information policy and information activities will be developed and introduced.</p>
14.	Improving the legal framework for ensuring social protection and regulating the pension sector, expanding social guarantees and ensuring attractiveness of military service

14.1. Ensuring the continuity of implementation of the state target programme "Affordable Housing for Military Servicemen" on long-term mortgage lending under privileged conditions, initiating implementation of the process of providing housing to the military servicemen having retained the right to receive improvement of housing conditions at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia

14.2. Elaborating a package of legislative amendments for the purpose of defining an increment based on the results of attestation of contract military servicemen of officer, non-commissioned officer and private staffs holding positions having the functions of carrying out military tasks

14.3. Elaborating the draft Law "On making an amendment to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On military service and the status of the military servant"" for the purpose of defining a monthly bonus for participants of the defence combat operations of the Republic of Armenia, having the right to receive retirement pension or benefit

14.4. Elaborating drafts of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On military service and the status of the military servant"", the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On compensation for damages caused to life or health of military servicemen while defending the Republic of Armenia"" and the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state pensions"

14.5. Elaborating the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On higher and postgraduate professional education"" for the purpose of defining additional social privileges and guarantees for contract military servicemen on combat alert along the line of contact with the adversary

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Actions

Implementation of the Actions is aimed at the necessity to improve the indicators of housing, monetary support and military pensions of military servicemen, define, under the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, new social guarantees and privileges for contract military servicemen involved in combat alert and persons having the status of a participant of the defence combat operations of the Republic of Armenia, settle issues having arisen in the law enforcement practice, digitise the services provided, increase the level of social protection of military servicemen, persons equivalent thereto and their family members by improving the legislation and ensure the attractiveness of military service (sub-point 9 of point 1.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021).

The Actions derive from the provisions of point 1.3 *"Increasing the social protection of military servicemen and their families has always been and will be in the center of attention of the Government; therefore, the Government will increase the material and social security guarantees of military servicemen, improve the mechanisms for increasing the attractiveness of military service and the reputation of military servicemen. Increase in salaries and other payments of military servicemen, the Government programmes on housing, the social and healthcare programmes of military servicemen bearing the consequences of the war will gain a new impulse."*, point 2.3 *"Introducing a single time application system for state and community services, excluding cases of requesting information from a citizen, where it is already available in an information database"*, point 4.6 *"The social guarantees for employees of the state sector will be expanded. For the purpose of increasing the quality of services provided to pensioners and benefit recipients, as well as improving the processes of appointing and paying pensions and benefits, the legislation will be improved, the scope of on-line services will be expanded due to the qualitative and quantitative improvement of data receipt including information systems"* and point 5.2 *"The Government attaches great importance to*

raising public awareness of human rights and the means of their protection — encouraging the protection of their rights by state and local self-government bodies, officials, as well as the society and citizens, continuously improving citizens' knowledge on human rights and the means of their protection” of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to part 6 of Article 73 of the Law “On military service and the status of the military servant”, no housing programme for 1420 contract military servicemen having retained the right to receive improvement of housing conditions is currently being implemented, which, besides negatively affecting the effectiveness of performance by these military servicemen of their official duties, also results in fair complaints among them. Moreover, conditioned by the fact of the inflation having recently taken place, there has been an actual reduction of salaries, which has resulted in the necessity to review the amounts of both monthly monetary support and military pensions and funeral benefits. There is a need to take efficient measures to ensure the quality and replenishment of the armed forces for evaluating the service, increasing the attractiveness of the service of military servicemen holding positions having the functions of implementing, planning of or exercising control over military tasks. Under the conditions of not prescribing the right to receive free medical care and service for the family members of former military servicemen on military pension for many years of service and for disability, the families of the mentioned military servicemen find themselves in a difficult social situation, by receiving a pension at least 2.5 times less than the monthly remuneration and also being deprived of the social security guarantees and privileges prescribed by law (except for their medical service). The volumes of social guarantees and privileges prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for contract military servicemen involved in combat alert do not ensure the attractiveness of military service; contract military servicemen, as well as persons having participated in the military operations unleashed in 2020 do not enjoy the right to receive priority compensation for the monetary deposits made in the ArmSSR Republican Bank of the USSR Savings Bank before 10 June 1993. Persons having the status of a participant of the defence combat operations of the Republic of Armenia acquire the right to receive a monthly bonus only in case of receiving a military pension for many years of service, and participants of the Afghan war — regardless of the fact of having the right to receive military pension. At the same time, some information required for provision of certain social security guarantees and privileges is mainly obtained either by requesting from beneficiaries or by submitting written inquiries to the relevant bodies, as a result of which in addition to prolonging the time limits of the administration carried out, in some cases beneficiaries also have to pay more than one visit to submit the required document.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- Ensure implementation of the process of providing housing to the military servicemen having retained the right to receive improvement of housing conditions at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia according to part 6 of Article 73 of the Law “On military service and the status of the military servant”, by including it in the 2023-2025 and 2024-2026 mid-term expenditure programmes or implementing through other programmes during the period of 2023-2026,
- For the purpose of expanding the social guarantees and ensuring the attractiveness of the military service for contract military servicemen, elaborating draft laws on making amendments and supplements to the Law “On military service and the status of the military servant”, the Law “On state pensions” and, where necessary, also to other laws, circulating and submitting them to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, according where to an attestation of contract military servicemen of officer, non-commissioned officer and private staffs holding

	<p>positions having the functions of carrying out military tasks will be defined and increments for qualification will be calculated based on the results thereof,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the purpose of changing the amount of the basic pension, the value of one-year of the military service experience and the amount of funeral benefit for calculating the amount of military pension, elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1734-N of 30 December 2010”, circulating and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, - For the purpose of prescribing the right to medical care and service for the family members of former military servicemen on military pension for many years of service with experience of 20 or more calendar years of military service, as well as having the right to military pension for disability, elaborating a draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making a supplement to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On military service and the status of the military servant"", circulating and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, - For the purpose of prescribing a monthly bonus for participants of the defence combat operations of the Republic of Armenia, having the right to receive employment pension or old-age benefit, or disability benefit, or benefit in case of loss of the breadwinner, elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making a supplement to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 141-N of 4 February 2021”, circulating and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, - Elaborating drafts of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On military service and the status of the military servant"" and of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On compensation for damages caused to life or health of military servicemen while defending the Republic of Armenia"", circulating and submitting them to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, - For the purpose of prescribing additional social privileges and guarantees for contract military servicemen on combat alert along the line of contact with the adversary, elaborating a draft Law “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On higher and postgraduate professional education””, circulating and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, - Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making a supplement to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 460-N of 23 April 2014”, circulating and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia under the procedure established, - Providing operative and publicly-accessible clarifications on the social-legal assistance and consulting services as well as the effective and newly adopted legislative acts for military servicemen, persons equivalent thereto and their family members, family members of killed (deceased) military servicemen and former military servicemen having the right to military pension for disability, - Ensuring access to the state information databases (CSAR body, Cadastre Information Center, State Population Register) within the scope of the
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	<p>functions performed and services provided for ensuring the social protection of military servicemen, persons equivalent thereto and their family members, family members of killed (deceased) military servicemen and former military servicemen having the right to military pension for disability.</p> <p>1.3. Expected outcome from implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Actions, the level of state care will increase, the utility and household conditions of beneficiaries will be continuously improved, financial security of military servicemen holding positions of implementing, planning of or exercising supervision over the military tasks will be increased as a result of calculation of the increment through attestation, the amount of funeral benefit paid to the family of the deceased pensioner will be increased, the living standards of military servicemen and military pensioners will be improved, which will promote also increase in the attractiveness of military service, persons having the status of a participant of combat operations will acquire the right to receive a monthly bonus regardless of the fact of having the right to military pension, the issues having arisen in the law enforcement practice will be solved, the functions performed within the scope of the existing legal regulations will be improved and clarified, the problems having practically arisen in the sector of social security will be solved, and the effectiveness of the activities carried out in the given sector will be ensured through adoption of the drafts of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On military service and the status of the military servant"" and of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On compensation for damages caused to life or health of military servicemen while defending the Republic of Armenia"", partial tuition reimbursement of at least 30 per cent will be established for children and spouses of contract military servicemen involved in combat alert, contract military servicemen involved in combat alert along the line of immediate contact with the adversary, as well as persons having participated in the military operations unleashed in 2020 will enjoy the right to receive priority compensation for the monetary deposits made in the ArmSSR Republican Bank of the USSR Savings Bank before 10 June 1993, increase of the level of public awareness among beneficiaries on the rights, social security guarantees and privileges prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia will be ensured, receipt of the information required for provision of relevant services in the field of social protection will be carried out automatically, by means of using the state information databases, excluding cases of requesting information from beneficiaries.</p>
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Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	
NN	RATIONALE
1.	<p><i>Reviewing the organisational structures of the Marzpetarans and developing the system of community service</i></p> <p>1.1. Submitting the drafts of the Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the statutes of staffs of the Marzpets" and the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On repealing a number of decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" to the Government for discussion</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>Necessity for reviewing the organisational structures of the Marzpetarans is conditioned by the Constitutional reforms in the Republic of Armenia, based on the necessity to adopt the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On territorial administration" and the necessity to describe the structure and functions of the Marzpetarans of the Republic of Armenia deriving therefrom. Necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the commitments provided for by the first paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as by point 80 of the Roadmap ensuring implementation of the CEPA.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On territorial administration" describes the powers of the Marzpets in the main sectors of their activities, as well as the relations of the Marzpets with the territorial subdivisions of the state administration bodies.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to settle the issue through adoption of the drafts of the Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the statutes of staffs of the Marzpets" and the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On repealing a number of decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Defining uniform functions and structure for the territorial administration bodies.</p> <p>1.2 Implementing institutional and legislative reforms of the system of community service</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On community service"", as well as revision of the secondary legislative acts regulating the sector are conditioned by the necessity to solve the problems identified by the results of monitoring of the processes provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia on community service and to modernise the system. Modernising of the system of training of community servants is conditioned by the necessity to increase effectiveness of the process of transferring the professional knowledge and skills of community servants. Necessity for implementation of the Action derives also from the commitments provided for by the sixth paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p>
	<p>2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Based on the results of monitoring of the processes provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, necessity has arisen to review the legislative and secondary legislative acts regulating community service for the purpose of bringing them into compliance with the amendments made to the related legislative acts, ensuring modernisation of the system of community service and eliminating the gaps in the existing regulations.</p> <p>The current training programme includes general topics that may not ensure improvement of such professional knowledge and skills for community servants,</p>

	<p>which will enable performing more effectively the functions reserved thereto by the job description for the position.</p> <p>For solving the above-mentioned problems, it is therefore recommended to make relevant amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On community service" and the secondary legislative acts regulating the sector, assess the training needs of community servants and develop new targeted training programme/programmes in accordance with the results thereof, transition to the remote training system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On community service"", aimed at improving the system, as well as ensuring compliance with the related legislative acts, • Making amendments and supplements to about 13 secondary legislative acts regulating the sector of community service, • Improving the professional knowledge and skills of community servants through a new programme/targeted programmes for training of community servants, which will ensure increase in effectiveness of the activities carried out by the local self-government bodies.
2.	<p><i>Ensuring proportionate territorial development of the Republic, social and economic stability of the territories, as well as further economic activity and growth</i></p> <p>2.1. Implementing assistance programmes aimed at improving the social and economic state of the inhabitants of the borderline communities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Social assistance to the borderline communities is implemented on the basis of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On social assistance to the borderline communities", the validity period of which has been extended until 1 January 2027. Based on the aforementioned, it is presumed that at least by the end of the mentioned period, the residents of the borderline communities must have been provided with the assistance provided for by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On social assistance to the borderline communities". Necessity for implementation of the Action derives also from the commitments provided for by the fifth paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The residents of 82 settlements of 13 borderline communities are envisaged to be provided with social assistance as prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1444-N of 18 December 2014. The amount of assistance comprises AMD 988,933.7 thousand.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of providing social assistance to the residents of 82 settlements of 13 borderline communities, it is envisaged to elaborate and submit to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration a relevant draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

2. Expected outcome

As a result of implementation of the Programme, at least the following assistance will be provided:

- (1) electricity — payments of up to 1440 kWh electricity in total during the calendar year are charged at a price reduced from the approved tariff, in the amount of 50% (including the value added tax),
- (2) natural gas — payments of up to 360 cubic metre natural gas in total during the calendar year are charged at a price reduced from the approved tariff, in the amount of 50% (including the value added tax),
- (3) compensation for natural gas in the form of electricity — amount equivalent to the value of the quantity of 15 cubic metre natural gas during the months with electricity consumption, increasing up to 180 cubic metre during the year,
- (4) irrigation water — in the amount of 50% of the payments charged for the irrigation water used by natural and legal persons in the given year,
- (5) immovable property tax — the property tax of the land subject to payment and of the immoveable property on those lands will be paid by the Government instead of them to the budget of the relevant community from the amounts envisaged for that purpose by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.

2.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the 2022-2027 Strategy for Territorial Development of the Republic of Armenia" to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Adoption of the 2022-2027 Strategy for Territorial Development of the Republic of Armenia will enable to clarify and review the proportionate territorial development priority directions, the goals, the main steps to achieve them and the measures, taking into account the programmes having already been implemented and the post-war realities. Necessity for implementation of the Action derives from the commitments provided for by Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia, in particular the core objective “Reasonable territorial development”, as well as by point 79 of the Roadmap ensuring implementation of the CEPA.

1.1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to elaborate a new strategy for territorial development by reviewing “the 2016-2025 Strategy for Territorial Development of the Republic of Armenia”, identifying the programmes implemented, administrative and territorial reforms, achievements and the current challenges, and to recommend directions and a toolkit in line with the international co-operation programmes of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, the logical link between the Strategy for Territorial Development of the Republic of Armenia and other strategic

	documents will be ensured, the planning and implementation of the interrelated measures for reducing the territorial development disparities will be clarified, which will be aimed at introducing a smart specialisation approach in all the marzes by promoting research and innovation at all levels, ensuring realisation of the core objective "Reasonable territorial development" of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.
3.	<p>3.1-3.2 Submitting the drafts of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1910-N of 23 November 2006" and the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1301-N of 8 November 2007" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity is conditioned by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-228-N "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On organising of funeral processions and exploitation of cemeteries and crematoriums"" adopted on 27 May 2021, part 3 of Article 8 whereof prescribes that the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall be obliged to make necessary supplements and amendments to Decision of the Government No 1910-N of 23 November 2006 by bringing it into compliance with the requirements of this Law within a three-month period after the entry into force of this Law (the Law shall enter into force on 1 January 2022). At the same time, necessity has arisen to make relevant amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1301-N of 8 November 2007 "On approving the procedures for cremation of bodies of the dead, neutralisation and relocation of cemeteries and for reburial in case of danger of sanitary and epidemiological situation".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the problem is that Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-228-N "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On organising of funeral processions and exploitation of cemeteries and crematoriums"" was adopted on 27 May 2021, according to which Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1910-N of 23 November 2006 "On defining the procedures, rules and the form of grave certificate provided for by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On organising of funeral processions and exploitation of cemeteries and crematoriums"" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1301-N of 8 November 2007 "On approving the procedures for cremation of bodies of the dead, neutralisation and relocation of cemeteries and for reburial in case of danger of sanitary and epidemiological situation" must be brought into compliance with the amendments introduced by the mentioned Law.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For settling the issue, it is recommended to make relevant amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1910-N of 23 November 2006 and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1301-N of 8 November 2007 by bringing them into compliance with the amendments introduced by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-228-N adopted on 27 May 2021.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Bring Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1910-N of 23 November 2006 "On defining the procedures, rules and the form of grave</p>

	<p>certificate provided for by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On organising of funeral processions and exploitation of cemeteries and crematoriums"" and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1301-N of 8 November 2007 "On approving the procedures for cremation of bodies of the dead, neutralisation and relocation of cemeteries and for reburial in case of danger of sanitary and epidemiological situation" into compliance with the amendments introduced by Law of the Republic of Armenia No HO-228-N "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On organising of funeral processions and exploitation of cemeteries and crematoriums"" adopted on 27 May 2021.</p>
4.	<p>4.1 “Ensuring continuation of the process of providing subventions from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of implementing the programmes submitted by the communities and meeting the defined standards, aimed at development of the economic and social infrastructures of the communities of the Republic of Armenia”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action is conditioned by ensuring of the process of providing subventions aimed at developing the economic and social infrastructures of the communities of the Republic of Armenia in addition to the subventions envisaged by the annual state budgets of the Republic of Armenia, approved by point 2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1708-N of 16 November 2006 "On approving the procedure for providing subventions to the communities from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia" for the purpose of ensuring the proportionate territorial development of the Republic of Armenia. The Action derives from the provisions of the second paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, as well as of the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.</p> <p>1.1.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the proportionate territorial development of the Republic of Armenia — development of the economic and social infrastructures of the communities of the Republic of Armenia, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has initiated and implemented the process of providing subventions to the communities since 2018; thus, transition has been made to a new policy of provision of subventions by providing subventions to the communities having submitted the best subvention programmes on a competitive basis.</p> <p>Attaching importance to cross-sectoral co-operation in community development processes, Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 136-A of 15 February 2018 had approved the establishment of an inter-agency commission, as well as the individual composition and the rules of procedure thereof for receiving other subventions than the subventions envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2018. Based on the amendments made to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the structure and activities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the new composition and the rules of procedure of the Inter-Agency Commission were approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 278-A of 19 March 2019.</p> <p>Within the scope of the subvention programme aimed at developing the social and economic infrastructures of the communities of the Republic of Armenia, in 2018-2020, 1483 subvention programmes were developed by the communities of the Republic of Armenia and submitted for consideration, and based on the consideration results and the results of discussions held within the Inter-Agency Commission established by the Decision of the Prime Minister of the</p>

Republic of Armenia, the 1363 out of them were approved.

After receiving approval by the Inter-Agency Commission, the communities of the Republic of Armenia were recommended to start the tender processes for implementation of the subvention programmes, and by concluding contracts on implementation of the programmes based on the tender results, to implement the subvention programmes under the procedure prescribed.

During 2018-2020, 1192 subvention programmes with a total value of AMD 47,5 billion were implemented in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, including:

- AMD 25,5 billion — with co-funding of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia;
- AMD 21,5 billion — with co-funding of the communities;
- AMD 500 million — with attraction of private investments.

The mentioned programmes are aimed at the construction and repair of roads, energy-saving street lighting, installation of photovoltaic stations, construction and repair of water supply and drainage systems, construction of the community gas supply system, repair, reconstruction and construction of kindergartens, repair of the elements of common shared ownership of multi-apartment buildings, including through the use of energy-saving measures, repair and construction of public buildings, including houses of culture, community centres, healthcare and sports centres, construction and improvement of parks, public gardens, acquisition of machinery, equipment and property in the communities of the Republic of Armenia.

However, the communities of the Republic of Armenia are still far from having generally developed infrastructures, and necessity arises to ensure the continuation of the above-mentioned Programme.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

According to the procedure for providing subventions aimed at developing the economic and social infrastructures of the communities of the Republic of Armenia in addition to the subventions envisaged by the annual state budgets of the Republic of Armenia, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 62-N of 7 February 2019, it is envisaged to involve a large number of communities in the process of providing subventions, which will enable developing the economic and social infrastructures of the communities. Moreover, within the scope of the Inter-Agency Commission established by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 278-A of 19 March 2019, it is envisaged to provide subventions to the communities having submitted the best programmes on a competitive basis.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, for the purpose of ensuring proportionate and sustainable development in all the settlements of the Republic, improving welfare of the population, making the settlements more comfortable places to live and act, as well as creating a favourable environment for business and investments and ensuring an attractive tourist destination for visitors, capital expenditures will be made in the communities of the Republic of Armenia, aimed at the construction and repair of the roads, parks, squares, energy-saving lighting, renovation of the public and community buildings,

	<p>construction and repair of the drinking and irrigation water lines, gasification of the communities, repair of the elements of common shared ownership of multi-apartment buildings, etc. At the same time, the role and direct participation of the communities in this process are extremely important in assessing the community needs, identifying the priority issues and providing solutions thereto.</p>
5.	<p>5.1 “Submitting the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law 'On garbage collection and sanitation'" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the legal act is conditioned by Action 3.1 ensuring implementation of the strategy approved by the Appendix to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 464-L of 1 April 2021 "On approving the 2021-2023 Action Plan ensuring the strategy for the garbage collection system and the implementation of that strategy". The Action derives from the actions ensuring the implementation of the Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and the document “Republic of Armenia-European Union Partnership Priorities”, the provisions of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States /105/ and from the commitment provided for by the first sentence of the third paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Law “On garbage collection and sanitation” regulates the relations pertaining to the garbage collection and sanitation in the Republic of Armenia, defines the principles of organising the process of garbage collection and sanitation, the fee for garbage collection, its rates, the scope of payers, their rights and responsibilities, the procedure for payment, liability for failure to pay, failure to fulfil or improper fulfilment of the obligations and the procedure for exercise of powers by local self-government bodies in the fields of organising garbage collection and sanitation.</p> <p>The current legislation of the Republic of Armenia does not regulate the whole process of garbage management, including the functions of garbage collection, sorting, utilisation, decontamination, reprocessing and placement thereof in landfills complying with the environmental, sanitary and urban development norms.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Necessity for making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On garbage collection and sanitation" is conditioned by the regulations relating to the current situation in the sector of garbage collection; in particular, necessity arises to regulate the garbage management activities, including the functions of garbage collection, sorting, utilisation, decontamination, reprocessing and placement thereof in landfills complying with the environmental, sanitary and urban development norms. Definitions of the sector of garbage collection also need to be clarified, in particular from the point of view of reducing the amount of garbage produced and implementing the circular economy mechanisms, as well as with regard to sorted collection of garbage and regulation of processes for each type. At the same time, the legal and contractual relations of garbage collection need to be clarified with</p>

regard to management of garbage produced in non-residential buildings and constructions.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected, by the adoption of the Draft, to create sustainable legal and institutional basis for introducing a system for garbage collection, transportation and safe disposal or utilisation and reprocessing throughout the Republic.

5.2. “Constructing a new sanitary landfill, closing landfills to be closed and improving the operating landfills”

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Implementation of the Action is conditioned by Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 ensuring implementation of the strategy approved by the Appendix to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 464-L of 1 April 2021 "On approving the 2021-2023 Action Plan ensuring the strategy for the garbage collection system and the implementation of that strategy". The Action derives from the actions ensuring the implementation of the Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and the document “Republic of Armenia-European Union Partnership Priorities”, the provisions of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States /105/, the commitment provided for by the third sentence of the third paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Numerous landfills have been created or spontaneously formed in the settlements of the Republic over the years, which occupy large areas and create serious environmental and sanitary problems. The garbage disposal sites existing in the Republic — landfills, do not comply with the international or any urban development, environmental and sanitary-hygienic standards and are exclusively considered a site for garbage accumulation. They mostly do not comply with the hygienic and sanitary standards and are operated unsystematically. In particular, they are not fenced, which may allow homeless people and animals to enter the area, there is no system for record-registration of the garbage placed, there is no equipment for washing and disinfection of garbage trucks, the placed wastes are not covered with soil, as a result of which self-ignition takes place resulting in contamination of air, water and soil in particular with dioxines, the negative impact of which on human health is obvious. There is no control over underground waters and gas emissions. In some landfills, garbage is burnt by local utility services for the purpose of reducing the amount of garbage placed in the landfill. Based on the results of the measures taken during 2017-2019, 1792 landfills were cleaned or closed by the communities. As of 2020, the number of landfills inventoried and mapped through co-operation with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the American University of Armenia and the participatory process of the marzes and communities of the Republic of Armenia constitutes 297, which do not comply with any urban development, environmental and sanitary-hygienic standards.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Necessity arises to introduce a system of landfills complying with the minimum urban development, environmental and sanitary norms throughout the Republic. In particular, according to the international agreement signed on 5 April 2016 between the Republic of Armenia and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, construct and put into operation, within the scope of the "Kotayk and Gegharkunik Solid Waste Management Project" in the stage of implementation, the first sanitary landfill in the Republic, complying with the relevant EU standards, as well as take measures for possibilities of constructing sanitary landfills in other areas of the Republic. At the same time, it is recommended to take measures for closing the landfills subject to closure in the territory of the Republic; in particular, immediately close the 25 landfills existing in the marzes of Kotayk and Gegharkunik by the end of 2024, thereby fulfilling the obligations assumed under the international agreement. At the same time, take measures for improving the operating landfills, in particular, close around 20 landfills and improve around 10 landfills.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, it is expected to reduce the negative and harmful effects of the garbage disposal landfills on human health and the environment, including reducing and (or) excluding atmospheric emissions and penetration of wastewaters into underground waters, introduce a system of landfills meeting the environmental and sanitary-hygienic norms, as well as by closing the landfills, areas will be vacated, improved and returned to the public.

5.3. "Ensuring the processes of proper collection, transportation and disposal or recycling of the originating garbage"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Implementation of the Action is conditioned by Actions 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.9 ensuring implementation of the strategy approved by the Appendix to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 464-L of 1 April 2021 "On approving the 2021-2023 Action Plan ensuring the strategy for the garbage collection system and the implementation of that strategy". The Action derives from the actions ensuring the implementation of the Republic of Armenia-European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and the document "Republic of Armenia-European Union Partnership Priorities", the provisions of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States /105/, the commitment provided for by the second sentence of the third paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Absence of a proper system for garbage collection throughout the Republic has contributed to formation of the habit of unregulated landfilling, including low quality of provision of garbage collection services. Absence of garbage collection schemes complying with the existing norms does not allow for placement of garbage bins of a defined size and quantity and for development of a schedule for garbage collection routes. There are no procedures for

collecting, retaining and transporting construction wastes of large size as well as wastes subject to utilisation, as a result of which they are either not collected or are transported to the landfill in a mixed and irregular manner, and there is no possibility for separation of wastes subject to utilisation. Necessity arises to regulate the above-mentioned processes, in particular to apply clear schemes of garbage collection, develop and apply procedures for use of different types of wastes.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

As a result of implementation of the Action, by proper disposal of garbage, the negative and harmful effects on human health and the environment will be reduced, the procedures for management of different types of garbage will be introduced, which will, in its turn, promote their utilisation actions.

5.4 Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 464-L of 1 April 2021” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity of the Action is contingent upon discussions conducted during the sitting of the Ministerial Committee of State and Legal Affairs of 11 December 2023 and execution of assignments given during outgoing consultation of the Prime Minister held on 8 December 2023 at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, as well as actions ensuring implementation of the “Armenia-EU Partnership Priorities” document, provisions of the Roadmap for Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia and European Union, as well as the European Atomic Energy Community and the member states thereof /105/and from the commitment provided for by the first sentence of the third paragraph of section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Short-term actions aimed at improving the legislative and regulatory and technical frameworks of the field were planned and implemented within the framework of 2021-2023 Action Plan ensuring the Strategy for the garbage collection system and the implementation of that Strategy approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 464-L of 4 April 2021.

Currently, there is a need to develop and execute actions aimed at implementation of regulatory and technical documents provided for by provisions of Garbage collection strategy, as well as make efforts for introducing a sustainable garbage collection system integrated within the settlements of the Republic, and this need derives from the provisions of the Strategy.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The necessity of making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 464-L of 1 April 2021 is dependent on the execution of actions derived from the provisions of the Strategy aimed to reduce the amount of produced garbage, raise the quality of garbage collection

	<p>services, establish a sustainable governance system in the field, as well as carry out garbage sorting and processing processes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>By rendering a decision as a result of implementation of the Action, it is anticipated to ensure introduction of a sustainable garbage collection system integrated within the settlements of the Republic.</p>
6	<p>6.1. Reinforcing the school buildings which are more vulnerable from the seismic point of view and need immediate improvement/constructing new school buildings</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the enforcement of the provisions of "the 2015-2030 Programme of Seismic Safety Improvement of Public General Schools of the Republic of Armenia" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 797-N of 23 July 2015, as well as derives from the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the commitment provided for by the fourth paragraph of Section 6.6 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the provisions of the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The prevailing majority of the general education schools existing in the territory of the Republic of Armenia were designed and constructed before 1988, and the seismic forces underlying their design are incomparably lower than the seismic forces anticipated.</p> <p>It should be noted that by paying particular attention to the reduction of seismic vulnerability of the objects of special and important significance from the point of view of seismic protection in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the 2015-2030 Programme of Seismic Safety Improvement of Public General Schools was approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in 2015, as well as the list of 436 schools considered most dangerous from the point of view of seismic resistance of the Republic of Armenia was approved based on the results of the studies conducted.</p> <p>Attaching importance to implementation of the Programme, based on the results of numerous discussions and studies, a loan agreement was concluded with the Asian Development Bank in 2015, within the scope whereof the "Programme of Seismic Safety Improvement" is being implemented. Total budget of the Programme constitutes USD 107 million, the bank's loan resources out of which constitute USD 88,5 million. The Programme was launched in 2016.</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively implementing the Programme, an inter-agency working group was formed by Decision of the Prime Minister No 582-A of 30 June 2016 and currently edited Decision of the Prime Minister No 726-A of 18 June 2020.</p> <p>In contrast to other loan programmes, the given Programme is result-oriented, <i>i.e.</i> the amounts provided to the Republic of Armenia are considered approved not in case of the expenditures made, but in case of ensuring the result indicators envisaged by the Programme. The Bank is implementing such a</p>

	<p>programme for the first time in the region.</p> <p>The list of 46 schools having the maximum seismic vulnerability for implementation of the Programme was approved by Decision of the Government No 805-N of 13 July 2017 and Decision of the Government No 1438-N of 13 December 2018.</p> <p>Within the scope of the Programme, the construction works of 7 schools have already been completed, and the schools have been put into operation. The constructed schools meet all the modern urban development and educational standards; in particular, they are earthquake-resistant in case of at least 9-magnitude earthquake, energy-saving and with possibilities for alternative energy use, as well as accessible for children with disabilities, in particular they are provided with elevators.</p> <p>At the same time, it should be noted that for the purpose of providing the newly constructed 7 schools with the necessary new school equipment, around AMD 217,459 million have been allocated from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia upon the relevant decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to ensure continuation of the "Programme of Seismic Safety Improvement" and</p> <p>to enable the reinforcing of 16 school buildings more vulnerable from the seismic point of view or the construction of new ones in the territory of the Republic.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action, about 18 school buildings will be constructed in the territory of the Republic, which will comply with the internationally accepted seismic safety norms for 9-magnitude (IX) earthquakes on the earthquake magnitude scale. Reinforced or repaired school buildings will also comply with the requirements prescribed by the Government with regard to energy efficiency, will have the possibility for free movement of persons with disabilities and groups of the population with limited mobility or compliance with the requirements of inclusiveness. At the same time, existence of newly constructed or reinforced schools will support the implementation of the National Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction by improving the seismic safety of schools in order to reduce the number of potential victims and damages in schools during earthquakes, and better opportunities will be created for using school buildings as public shelters and emergency response points after earthquakes.</p>
7.	<p>Introducing information systems in the merged multi-dwelling communities, improving the quality of administrative services provided to the citizens and expanding the accessibility thereof</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of reforms in the sector of public services is among the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and is one of the four main directions of the Strategy for Public Administration Reforms by 2030. Necessity for implementation of the Action derives also from the commitments provided for by the third sentence of the first paragraph of Section 6.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by</p>

	<p>Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation (also with indication of baseline data, where available)</p> <p>In case of merger of the communities, among other issues, necessity arises to take steps for improving the quality of administrative services provided by local self-government bodies and making them equally accessible to settlements in the merged communities.</p> <p>1.1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues (in case of having co-implementing body of the action, also indicate the actions subject to implementation by the co-implementing body in relation to the relevant action)</p> <p>Introduction of a CGIS in the merged communities, establishment of CSOs and provision of some state services will allow for improving the quality of administrative services provided by local self-government bodies and expanding the accessibility thereof.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Application of the CGIS will enable the merged community to include the offices of the administrative heads of the community centre and settlements in a single unified information space by making the community services equal for the residents in all the settlements of the community.</p> <p>Through the application of the "one-stop shop" principle, the quality of services provided to citizens will be improved, the effectiveness and transparency of activities of the municipality will increase, and the administrative processes will be facilitated within the CSOs.</p> <p>Due to provision of some state services by the municipality, they will be brought directly closer to the residents of the given community, unnecessary hurdles, financial means and time spent on receiving services will be reduced.</p> <p>In 25 communities out of the new merged multi-dwelling communities to be formed as a result of implementation of the Action, a community governance information system (CGIS) will be introduced, and in 15 communities out of these communities, the already operating CGIS will be modernised.</p> <p>The organisational equipment fleet existing in the administrative offices of about 420 settlements will be modernised.</p> <p>Citizens' Service Offices (CSOs) will be established in 10 communities, and the CSOs already operating in 4 communities will be modernised.</p>
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Decentralising the powers</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action will provide an opportunity to deepen the policy of decentralisation and transfer new powers to the local self-government bodies as a result thereof. It derives also from the commitments set forth in the fifth sentence of the first paragraph of Section 6.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The large number of communities and the low level of their capacities were a serious obstacle to decentralisation of the powers. The recent administrative</p>

	<p>and territorial reforms aimed at merging the communities and strengthening their capacities already create sufficient grounds for carrying out decentralisation of the powers.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Merger of the communities as a result of the legislative amendments made in the sector of local self-governance in the Republic of Armenia in 2016 has provided an opportunity to deepen the policy of decentralisation of the powers by reserving more powers to the local self-government bodies in the newly formed multi-dwelling communities, increasing their role in the public administration system.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>New powers will be conferred to the local self-government bodies under the legislation, as a result of which the efficiency of local self-governance and the quality and accessibility of community services provided to the population will increase.</p>
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Introducing different forms of inter-community co-operation</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Chapter 9 of the Law “On local self-governance” describes one of the forms of inter-community co-operation — inter-community unions. It derives also from the commitments provided for by the sixth sentence of the first paragraph of Section 6.6 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>However, there are also other forms of inter-community co-operation — associations, committees, labour unions, public-legal agreement, target unions, joint administrative bodies, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to rename Chapter 9 of the Law "On local self-governance" as "Inter-community co-operation" and accordingly to describe in that Chapter the forms of inter-community co-operation existing in the international practice and those complying with the legislation and administration system of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome</p> <p>As a result, the legislation will provide the communities with an opportunity to choose forms of inter-community co-operation complying with the goals set before them.</p>
10	<p style="text-align: center;">Pursuing a unified and comprehensive policy in the mining sector</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.1 Elaborating a strategy on development of the mining sector</p>

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Being one of the most important manufacturing sectors of the Republic of Armenia, the mining sector does not yet have a clear policy and strategy enabling to have a vision and take specific actions for settling the existing issues and ensuring sustainable development of the sector. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 1 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third, sixth, eighth, ninth, thirteenth and fourteenth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Ensuring fulfilment of the requirements of the Concept on Development of the Mining Sector approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 36-21 of 24 August 2017.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Directions for settling the revealed issues considered to be an obstacle for sustainable development of the sector and measures to be taken for ensuring reforms in the mining sector will be provided in the strategic document to be developed.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Revealing the gaps existing in the policy of the mining sector, establishing an institutional framework for increasing and distributing the fiscal and non-fiscal benefits at the national and local levels, revealing environmental and social issues and assessing benefits and expenditures.

10.2 Adopting laws regulating the mining sector in line with the mining sector development strategy, as well as other legal acts deriving therefrom

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

There is necessity to review and complete the scope of powers of state administration and local self-government bodies with functions relating to the sector, create legislative grounds for co-ordinated and complementary functions, ensure development of capacities related to both technical and human capabilities. For the purpose of settling the mentioned issues, legislative reforms will be implemented in line with the Strategy on Development of the Mining Sector. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 2 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third, sixth, eighth, ninth and thirteenth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Ensuring fulfilment of the requirements of the Strategy on Development of the Mining Sector.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

	<p>Implementing legislative reforms in line with the Strategy on Development of the Mining Sector.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring the formation of a favourable environment for the sustainable development of the mining sector.</p>
11.	<p>Drawing up and publishing an annual national report on the measures implemented in the mining sector within the scope of the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) (ongoing)</p> <p>11.1. Drawing up by the Republic of Armenia the draft annual national report on the measures implemented in the mining sector within the scope of the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative), submitting it to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and publishing it</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Having been a candidate member of the EITI since 2016, the Republic of Armenia has undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the 2016 EITI Standard, according to the requirement of point 4.8 of which the countries implementing the EITI must publish a national report on an annual basis, by making comprehensive information on the mining sector accessible. It derives from the international obligation of the Republic of Armenia to join the EITI and the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Fulfilling the requirements of the 2016 EITI Standard, which will enable obtaining the status of a compliant country.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Ensuring fulfilment of the requirements of the 2016 EITI Standard.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Existence of more transparent, accountable state and business systems, which serve as a stimulus for the establishment of dialogue between the Government, the private sector of the economy and the civil society.</p>
12	<p>Regulating the legal relations pertaining to the process related to materials submitted for geological expert examination</p> <p>12.1. Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The subsoil of the Republic of Armenia is the exclusive property of the State and may be provided under the right of use. However, the State does not yet have established minimum requirements for exploration of deposits and their geological and economic assessment for the rational use of that property. Exploration of deposits and their geological and economic assessment are currently carried out by using the USSR practices. Their absence complicates</p>

implementation of the tasks set before the State in this field and gives rise to different types of speculations.

There is necessity to review and complete the legal relations pertaining to the geological expert examination, in particular to define methodical instructions for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of mineral deposit areas, as well as directives for application of classification of mineral reserves. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 15 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, there are no legal bases for defining methodical instructions for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of solid mineral deposit areas, as well as necessity has arisen to edit point 25 of part 3 of Article 17 of the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaborate and submit to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia"

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Establishing legal bases for defining methodical instructions for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of mineral deposit areas, as well as directives for application of mineral reserve classification.

12.2. Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining methodical instructions for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of mineral deposit areas"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Requirements for the content of materials for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of the mineral deposit areas have been defined by Annex 2 approved by sub-point 2 of point 1 of Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia No 04-N of 3 May 2021, but there are currently no methodical instructions defined for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of mineral deposit areas. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 15 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, there are no methodical instructions defined for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of mineral deposit areas, which is an obstacle to the co-ordinated organising of the geological expert examination process.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Availability of methodical instructions for geological and economic substantiation of the parameters of quality requirements of mineral deposit areas.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Regulating the legal relations pertaining to the process related to materials submitted for geological expert examination.

12.3. Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining directives for application of classification of mineral reserves"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The subsoil of the Republic of Armenia is the exclusive property of the State and may be provided under the right of use. However, the State does not yet have directives for application of classification of different types of mineral reserves, ensuring the rational use of this property, which is an obstacle to the co-ordinated organising of the geological expert examination process and gives rise to different types of speculations and comments. It derives also from the commitments provided for by points 3 and 15 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, there are no directives defined for application of classification of different types of mineral reserves, which is an obstacle to the co-ordinated organising of the geological expert examination process and gives rise to different types of speculations and comments.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining directives for application of classification of mineral reserves".

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Regulating the legal relations pertaining to the process related to materials submitted for geological expert examination.

12.4. Enshrining the technical and technological indicators of extraction and re-processing of ores, substantiated during assessment of mine

	<p>resources in the metal minerals extraction project, and in case of deviation from the defined indicator, submitting a recommendation on legislative amendments to the Office of the Prime Minister for the purpose of introducing mechanisms for application of the relevant measures by legal acts</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Currently, the technical and technological indicators of extraction and re-processing of ores, substantiated during assessment of mine resources, enshrined in the metal minerals extraction project are substantiated upon discretion of the subsoil user, and though the substantiated indicators are enshrined in the minerals extraction project, any variation in their values is considered to be a project violation, regardless of the amount of the deviation. In the sector of subsoil use, it is objectively impossible to set a constant value of any indicator. Necessity has arisen to set a permissible amount of the specified deviation, which will not be considered a violation of the project provisions, and in case of exceeding the permissible amount of deviation, appropriate measures will be defined by the legal acts. It derives also from the commitments provided for by points 3 and 15 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, no permissible amount of deviation is defined for the technical and technological indicators of extraction and re-processing of ores, substantiated during assessment of mine resources and enshrined in the project, the legal acts do not therefore prescribe appropriate measures in case of exceeding the permissible amount of deviation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Prescribe permissible amount of deviation from the technical and technological indicators of extraction and re-processing of ores, substantiated during assessment of mine resources and enshrined in the project and appropriate measures in case of exceeding the permissible amount of deviation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Regulating the legal relations pertaining to the process related to materials submitted for geological expert examination.</p>
13	<p>Ensuring implementation of the measures aimed at inventory-taking of underground mineral water wells and updating of database</p> <p>13.1. Inventory-taking of water points (wells, springs) of underground mineral water sites</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The obtained results will serve as a ground for correctly and effectively organising the process of granting the right of subsoil use for mineral water extraction purposes by the authorised body, as well as will provide an opportunity for developing appropriate measures to protect the underground mineral waters from consumption and pollution and support the protection of the subsoil. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 3 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the</p>

	<p>Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third and eighth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Most of the wells of the underground mineral water deposits were drilled more than 25 years ago. Being subjected to corrosion over time (from effects of carbon dioxide), their fastening pipes decay, become porous, lose their significance, as a result of which craters of waters (freshwater and mineral) of different aquifers are formed, resulting in deterioration of the condition and quality of underground mineral waters, which may harm the health of the population and cause other unfavourable phenomena.</p> <p>Some water users do not carry out formation of a sanitary protection zone for the protection of underground mineral water deposits and aquifers, hydrogeological monitoring observations, laboratory tests, maintenance of water regulating equipment, activities and expenses, which would ensure water protection from contamination, littering, as well as improvement of the condition and regime of waters.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the above-mentioned issues, properly exercising state control, eliminating the gaps and difficulties having arisen during provision of the underground mineral water sites for use, ensuring regular collection of taxes for ensuring the initial background of the process of provision for use, as well as ensuring the current and perspective mineral water programming and developing schemes for the complex use and storage thereof, it is necessary to carry out in the mineral water deposits inventory-taking of the wells, drilled at different times and by different organisations, as well as studies of the technical condition (it has not been carried out at all).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring implementation of the measures aimed at prevention of consumption and contamination of underground mineral waters. Availability of reliable data on the condition, water use and sanitary state of mineral water wells, springs, existence of a strict sanitary protection regime zone, as well as on water quality and usability.</p>
14	<p style="text-align: center;">Ensuring reliability of geological information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14.1. Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On defining the procedure for filling out annual report forms on the movement of mineral reserves, drawing up explanatory notes and for submitting them"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity has arisen to review the form of annual report on the movement of mineral reserves approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1348-N of 25 October 2012 and define the forms of annual reports on the condition and change of mineral reserves and on the record-registration of underground water reserves (drinking, technical, mineral, industrial and thermal energy), the procedures for filling out the annual report on</p>

	<p>the condition and change of mineral reserves and the annual report on record-registration of underground water reserves (drinking, technical, mineral, industrial and thermal energy) and the procedure for drawing up an explanatory note for the annual report on the condition and change of mineral reserves. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 4 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, only the form of the annual report on the movement of mineral reserves is defined, there are no forms of annual reports on the condition and change of mineral reserves and on the record-registration of underground water reserves (drinking, technical, mineral, industrial and thermal energy), no procedures for filling out the annual report on the condition and change of mineral reserves and the annual report on record-registration of underground water reserves (drinking, technical, mineral, industrial and thermal energy) and no procedure for drawing up an explanatory note for the annual report on the condition and change of mineral reserves.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On defining the procedure for filling out annual report forms on the movement of mineral reserves, drawing up explanatory notes and for submitting them".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring reliability of geological information.</p>
15	<p>Ensuring reasonable and complex use of subsoil through the available complete project documents</p> <p>15.1. Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining minimum requirements for the geological exploration plan"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity has arisen to develop minimum requirements for the geological exploration plan attached to the application on seeking the right to geological exploration of subsoil for the purpose of extraction of minerals. Defining of mandatory minimum requirements is aimed at ensuring the effective and complex use of the subsoil deemed to be state ownership. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 5 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the geological exploration plan is presented by subsoil users in a free-style manner, sometimes without maintaining the necessary structure and</p>

substantiations.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining minimum requirements for the geological exploration plan"

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Ensuring reasonable and complex use of subsoil through the available complete project documents.

15.2 Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining minimum requirements for the project of extraction of minerals"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Necessity has arisen to develop minimum requirements for the project of extraction of minerals. Defining of mandatory minimum requirements is aimed at ensuring the effective and complex use of the subsoil deemed to be state ownership. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 5 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the project of extraction of minerals is presented by subsoil users in a free-style manner, sometimes without maintaining the necessary structure and substantiations.

1.3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Approving the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia "On defining minimum requirements for the project of extraction of minerals"

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Ensuring reasonable and complex use of subsoil through the available complete project documents.

15.3. Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 367-N of 28 March 2013"

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity has arisen to review the content of information on financial and technical capabilities and resources provided by subsoil users and to complement the requirements therefor. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 5 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For geological exploration and extraction of minerals for the purpose of extracting the subsoil for minerals, the organisation seeking the right to subsoil use provides information on financial and technical capabilities and resources, but there is necessity to review and supplement them, taking into account the issues having arisen in recent years.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 367-N of 28 March 2013"</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring reasonable and complex use of the subsoil.</p>
16	<p>Clarifying the requirement for social obligations for communities</p> <p>16.1. Developing a mechanism for calculation of the social mitigation allocations enshrined in the project of extraction of minerals and submitting a recommendation on legislative amendments</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Currently, contracts on subsoil use stipulate provisions on the amount of the obligations undertaken in the sector of social and economic development of the community and on the time limits for the fulfilment thereof, but the legislation does not in any way prescribe standards for the volume and content of the obligations undertaken in the social and economic sector of the community. Necessity has arisen to develop a mechanism for calculation of the social mitigation allocations enshrined in the project of extraction of minerals and submit a recommendation on legislative amendments to the Office of the Prime Minister within the scope of that mechanism. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 6 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third and ninth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, contracts on subsoil use stipulate provisions on the amount of the obligations undertaken in the sector of social and economic development of the</p>

	<p>community and on the time limits for the fulfilment thereof.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to develop a mechanism for calculation of the social mitigation allocations enshrined in the project of extraction of minerals, whereby the obligations undertaken in the sector of social and economic development of the community will be regulated.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Contributing to development of the local communities.</p>
17	<p>Ensuring advancement of the directions for co-operation between the authorised body of the mining sector and the Academy, mining companies, associations and the international organisations. Supporting the issues of preparing on-demand sectoral specialists in the education system.</p> <p>17.1. Signing memoranda of co-operation with the higher education institutions and the National Academy of Sciences in the directions of exchange of scientific and practical activities, knowledge, experience, skills, establishment of professional commissions and in other directions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Currently, the co-operation with the higher education institutions and the National Academy of Sciences is not close and is carried out through personal ties of the specialists working in the sector. Necessity has arisen to develop the directions of co-operation by creating a platform for co-operation between the sectoral specialists, students and subsoil users. The co-operation will focus on the development of practical skills and capabilities of students, improvement of educational programmes in the sector of nature protection and subsoil use, strengthening of the practical component of vocational training and development of the current and long-term programmes in line with the market requirements. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 7 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the first and third core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the co-operation with the higher education institutions and the National Academy of Sciences is not close, and providing subsoil users with qualified specialists is among the issues of the sector.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to develop and sign memoranda with the higher education institutions and the National Academy of Sciences and to create a platform for co-operation between sectoral specialists, students and subsoil users.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p>

	Providing qualified sectoral specialists, effectively managing the sector of subsoil use, increasing the quality of subsoil use.
18	<p style="text-align: center;">Legally regulating provision of the land plots necessary for subsoil use</p> <p>18.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government on approving the drafts of the Laws "On making amendments and supplements to the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia and the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>For the purpose of legal regulation of the issue of land allocation necessary for subsoil use, necessity has arisen to study the international practice and introduce, as a result thereof, a mechanism interrelated with the process of granting the rights to subsoil use. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 8 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the land parcels in the Republic of Armenia belong to different entities under the right of ownership — communities, natural and legal persons, which dispose of their property, and this competence is protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. According to part 6 of Article 13 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, the land parcels designed for the extraction of useful minerals shall be allocated in accordance with the documents certifying the right to subsoil use. The right to use the lands required for subsoil use — privatised by legal and natural persons or community lands provided for lease, may be acquired by subsoil users only through negotiation or consultation processes, in the course of which quite many problems arise.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to elaborate a package of draft Laws of the Republic of Armenia on making amendments and supplements to the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia and the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, wherein the legal regulation of provision of the lands required for subsoil use will be provided.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Introducing a mechanism interrelated with the process of granting the rights to subsoil use.</p>
19	<p style="text-align: center;">Legally regulating the terms and requirements for giving consent in order to conduct geological explorations in the region</p> <p>19.1. Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia drafts of the legal acts for the purpose of regulation of the process of seeking and granting consent to conduct geological exploration</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring effective management of the subsoil sector and collecting information, it is necessary to ensure provision and record-</p>

	<p>registration of the performed works as prescribed by law, receipt and maintenance of their results, which will also contribute to ensuring the completeness of information on subsoil and to updating it. In case of adoption of the draft package of the relevant legal acts elaborated, the process will be clarified for persons seeking consent for geological exploration purposes, the procedure for granting the right will be defined, completeness of the information on provision and state record-registration of consent, registration of the exploration results and the subsoil of the Republic will be ensured. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 10 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, provision of the consent defined by the provisions of Article 32 of the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia is not carried out, as there are gaps in the existing legal regulations, there is no procedure for granting the right to subsoil use upon consent issued by the Government for regional geological exploration purposes. Many explorations, which are carried out mainly by academic groups, for different scientific purposes, are carried out without consent, are not record-registered, and their results are not submitted to the authorised body for retaining and ensuring completeness of the information on the subsoil.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating drafts of amendments to the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia and of the Decision of the Government deriving therefrom and submitting them to the Office of the Prime Minister.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the effectiveness of and improving management of the subsoil sector and ensuring the completeness of and modernising the information on the subsoil.</p>
20	<p style="text-align: center;">Creating a digital cadastre of information about subsoil</p> <p>20.1. Elaborating a roadmap for creating, managing and maintaining automatic governance information systems (AGIS) for managing the State Cadastre of Mineral Deposits (mineral resources) (SCMD) and the State balance sheet of mineral reserves (SBSMR).</p> <p>20.2 Implementation of Actions stipulated by the Roadmap for creating, managing and maintaining AGIS for managing the SCMD and SBSMR, and reserved to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure.</p> <p>20.3 Creating and operating AGIS for managing the State Cadastre of Mineral Deposits (mineral resources) and the State balance sheet of mineral reserves.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Today, the whole valuable information maintained in the geological fund has not only archival or scientific significance, but also the significance of</p>

maintaining, updating and disposing of information, managing the movement of reserves on the basis of annual reports by economic operators, inventory-taking of deposits and deposit occurrences and providing services to citizens and economic operators on the basis of this entire database. The Action is aimed at:

1. Elaborating a roadmap for creating, managing and maintaining AGISs for SCMD and SBSMR;
2. Carry out activities aimed at implementation of the approved roadmap, due to which the process of introduction of information systems shall be ensured.
3. Create and operate AGIS systems managing SCMD and MSBSMR

SCMD and MSBSMR constitute a digital cadastre of resources and reserves, which will not only include all the information accumulated during the decades, but will also contribute to the effective performance of the functions defined by the legislation. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 11 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the first objective defined by the Action Plan of the Strategy on development of the mining sector approved on 11 May 2023.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Although, the materials existing in the fund are maintained on paper, as well as in scanned versions due to the efforts made by the Government in recent years.

However, for the purpose of creating the mentioned AGIS systems, as well as generating and providing services in line with the requirements of the time, it is necessary to digitise the entire database, which is a primary necessity in the sector, the fulfilment of which will contribute to raising the effectiveness of works related to managing the State cadastre of mineral deposits and manifestations and the state balance sheet of mineral deposit reserves, creating and managing the unified system of geological information..

The absence of digital spatial and automated control systems prolongs the duration required for data collection and processing, thus impeding the efficiency of analytical tasks. Failure to use the modern information systems hinders the complete use of information, management of the state balance sheet and accurate submission of information.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

To create a digital cadastre of information about subsoil, it is needed to develop a roadmap for introducing a unified system of geological information, the actions specified wherein will be further implemented by introduction of electronic systems, which will provide an opportunity of introducing mechanisms interrelated with the process of granting the rights to subsoil use, will contribute to raising the effectiveness of managing the subsoil sector and will foster effective fulfilment of functions prescribed by the legislation.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Existence of a roadmap approved by the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and infrastructure with defined guidelines, time limits and financial estimates for exercising Actions to ensure that AGIS systems in place are operable and comprehensive.</p> <p>Carrying out works on implementation of the approved Roadmap for AGIS to manage the State Cadastre of mineral deposits (mineral resources) and the state balance sheet of mineral reserves, as a result of which the process of introduction of information systems will be ensured.</p> <p>Creating and operating AGIS for managing the State cadastre of mineral deposits (mineral resources) and state balance sheet of mineral reserves in line with development trends of innovative technologies.</p> <p>It derives also from the Concept Paper on creating an integrated cadastre approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 672-L of 23 May 2019 and from the Actions ensuring it and from the Strategic programme on creating an integrated cadastre approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 505-L of 8 April 2021.</p>
21	<p>Ensuring effective exploitation of mines within the scope of the existing rights to subsoil use</p> <p>21.1. Elaborating the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>In cases when force-majeure has emerged for fulfilment of the obligations related to subsoil use — emergency and non-preventable circumstances having, regardless of the efforts made, impeded proper fulfilment of the obligations of the subsoil user (for example, declared martial law or other circumstances deemed to be insurmountable for fulfilment of the obligations of the subsoil user: civil disobedience, riots (different manifestations of protests, as a result of which it has been impossible to organise activities related to subsoil use in the mine), natural disasters, etc.), in case of the existing legal regulations set forth by the legislation on subsoil, it is not possible to extend the term of validity of the right to subsoil use for the entire term of validity of the circumstances deemed to be force majeure. It derives also from the commitments provided for by point 9 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Non-fulfilment or improper fulfilment of the obligations provided for by the legislation on subsoil as a consequence of force majeure is not provided for as a ground for extension of the term of the right to subsoil use. At the same time, the terms of fulfilment of the obligations of the subsoil user are clear under the legislation, sometimes concise, and failure to observe them results in negative consequences, up to termination of the right to subsoil use as prescribed by law.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>The recommended draft will regulate the legal relations pertaining to extension of the term of the right to subsoil use for the term of validity of those circumstances as a result of the emergence of force majeure, which will enable the subsoil user companies to properly fulfil the obligations not having been fulfilled or having been improperly fulfilled in the unpredictable and emergency conditions created in the world and in the Republic of Armenia in recent years and having also had an impact on fulfilment of the obligations of the subsoil user.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Clarifying the time limits for granting the right to subsoil use, conditioned by the necessity of legislative regulation of the force majeure and the consequences thereof.</p>
22.	<p>Introducing effective mechanisms ensuring fair and long-term development of taxation of the mining industry</p> <p>22.1. Elaborating and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Currently, necessity has arisen to improve and make the current royalties system more flexible. Taking into account the fact that subsoil use is considered to be one of the sectors requiring most capital-intensive and long-term planning in our country and in general, as well as the fact that, according to observation of the world practices, a sharp increase in tax rates could result in deepening the economic crisis, necessity arises to carry out in-depth analysis by studying the international practice and revealing the tax rate and base that are "viable" for the Republic of Armenia and at the same time ensure balanced state revenues, and only then to make relevant amendments to the legal acts.</p> <p>Implementation of the Action derives also from the commitment provided for by point 12 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third and fourteenth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the process of elaborating a strategy for development of the mining sector has launched, which envisages revealing the gaps existing in the policy on the mining sector, the possibility of creating an institutional framework for increasing and distributing fiscal and non-fiscal benefits at the national and local levels, the environmental and social issues and assessment of benefits and expenditures. The strategic document will enable having a vision and taking specific actions to settle the existing issues and ensure sustainable development of the sector. According to the signed contract, the draft strategy will be completed by 31 April 2022. After adoption of the strategy, it is envisaged to elaborate and submit to the Office of the Prime Minister the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia" for the purpose of introducing the mechanism for fair calculation of royalty rates in the context of the reforms of the unified tax system, revealed within the scope of the Strategy for Development of the Mining Industry Sector.</p>

	<p>1.1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of study of the international practice (rates, peculiarities of their calculation and application within the scope of study of the fiscal system of comparable countries), reveal the tax rate and base that are "viable" for Armenia and at the same time ensure balanced state revenues, after which make amendments to the relevant legal acts.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The recommended amendments will provide an opportunity for improving and making more flexible the current system of royalties, which is very important for the economy of the country.</p>
23.	<p>Taking effective measures for obtaining final mineral raw material product</p> <p>23.1. Supporting the investment programme on constructing a brass foundry, contributing to settlement of issues related to sales of production wastes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Currently, introduction of an economic value chain closure mechanism within the country is very important for development of the Republic's economy in the sector of mining industry, particularly in copper production for the purpose of ensuring greater and more stable returns from the sector. However, in parallel with the steps taken to introduce copper production, there is also necessity for contributing to settlement of the issues related to the sale of production wastes.</p> <p>Implementation of the Action derives also from the commitment provided for by point 13 of the first paragraph of Section 2.8 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third and seventh core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In recent years, the world market has recorded increase in the stock exchange prices of non-ferrous metals, which creates favourable conditions for the growth of revenues of the sector of metal mining industry of Armenia and for further development of the sector. Currently, copper concentrate plays a dominant role in the composition of the export of the Republic. For the purpose of creating and developing products by using cleaner and more environmentally friendly technologies, it is recommended to establish a new brass foundry, which will contribute to development of the mining industry sector of Armenia and ensure high economic revenues.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Constructing a brass foundry equipped with new modern technologies for the purpose of obtaining final mineral raw material product, which will enable to reprocess metal ore within the country, extract pure metal and export it, concurrently contributing to settlement of the issues related to the sale of</p>

	<p>production wastes in parallel with the steps taken to introduce copper production.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Development of the mining industry sector of Armenia, high economic revenues, possibility for creating related productions.</p>
24	<p>Liberalising the electricity market</p> <p>24.1. Completely transitioning to the new model of the electricity wholesale market</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof. Necessity for transitioning to the new model of the electricity wholesale market in Armenia is conditioned by the needs of the internal market, as well as the use of cross-border trade possibilities.</p> <p>3. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The current model of the electricity market of Armenia was launched in 2004. The market is fully regulated in both the wholesale and retail sectors. The electricity market relies only on the projection of annual volumes of electricity production and consumption and does not impose liability on the market participants in case of deviations from those volumes. As a result, the risks arising from the difference between the projected and actual volumes of electricity production are balanced by the tariffs for electricity supplied to consumers, including also the cost of balancing such risks with the person having an electricity distribution licence.</p> <p>4. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Transition to the new model of the electricity wholesale market, which will increase effectiveness of the wholesale and retail markets, and the promotion of interstate trade will provide an opportunity for having new elements of competition in the internal market.</p> <p>The new market model will, already in this stage, be based on the modern rules for electricity trading, will work by balancing the demand and supply and will define mechanisms for liability of the market participants during trading.</p> <p>5. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Possible reduction of the tariffs, increase of the level of effectiveness of the system.</p> <p>The works related to the transition to a new model of the wholesale electricity market in Armenia are carried out jointly with the Public Services Regulatory Commission of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

25	<p>Forming common electricity and gas markets of the Eurasian Economic Union</p> <p>25.1. Elaborating and adopting the ten main documents regulating the common electricity and gas markets of the EAEU, performing works</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Being an EAEU member state, Armenia actively participates in the activities of formation of the Eurasian common electricity and gas markets. They are envisaged to be launched in 2025. According to the Action Plan approved by Decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council No 31 of 20 December 2019, adoption of the five main regulatory documents for the common electricity market is defined. Upon Decision of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council No 7 of 31 May 2016, the concept paper on formation of a common gas market and the programme for the implementation thereof were adopted. An international agreement will be signed between the member states for the full operation of the common market. Five main regulatory documents will be adopted in relation to the full operation of the gas market.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring the full operation of the Eurasian common electricity and gas markets, ten main regulatory documents will be elaborated and adopted.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Elaboration and adoption of the documents will contribute to the formation and full operation of the common electricity and gas markets.</p>
26	<p>26. Extending and modernising the projected time frame for operation of the second power unit of the Armenian NPP</p> <p>26.1. Perform works of the programme and its final stage on modernising of the second power unit of the Armenian NPP and on extension of the time frame for the operation thereof</p> <p>26.1.1 Perform works of the programme on modernising of the second power unit of the Armenian NPP and on extension of the time limit for the operation thereof</p> <p>26.1.2 Perform works of the programme on modernising of the second power unit of the Armenian NPP and on extension of the time limit for the</p>

operation thereof

26.1.3 Perform works of the programme and its final stage on modernising of the second power unit of the Armenian NPP and on extension of the time limit for the operation thereof

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.

The Action is aimed at ensuring safe operation of the second power unit of the Armenian NPP until 2026, as well as additional extension of its operation term in case of substantiation of safety of the station after that term.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Within the scope of the programme on extension of the projected time frame for operation of Power Unit No 2 of the Armenian NPP, agreements were concluded between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Russian Federation: on 20 December 2014 — an agreement on co-operation and on 5 February 2015 — an agreement on provision of loan (USD 300 million, out of which loan in the amount of USD 270 million and grant in the amount of USD 30 million). The deadline for use envisaged by the agreement on loan provided by the Russian Federation was set for 31 December 2019; however, as a result of the negotiations held with the Russian side, the deadline for use provided for by the loan agreement was not extended, after which, on 11 June 2020, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No 953-N "On allocating a budget loan from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1919-N of 26 December 2019" (hereinafter referred to as "the Decision").

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Conditioned by non-extension of the deadline for use envisaged by the agreement on loan provided by the Russian Federation, for completing the works of extending the term for operation of the ANPP, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted a Decision, according to which for the purpose of funding the works of extending the term for operation of the nuclear power plant in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, a budget loan in the amount of AMD 63,2 billion will be provided to the "Armenian Nuclear Power Plant" CJSC from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia during 2020-2022, out of which in 2020 — AMD 18,7 billion, in 2021 — AMD 25 billion, in 2023 — AMD 4,5 billion, in 2024 — AMD 7 billion, and in 2025 — AMD 12.5 billion. At the same time, on 11 June 2020, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No 945-A "On approving the Action Plan implemented by the "Rusatom Service" Joint-Stock Company within the scope of the Project "Extension of the term for operation of the 2nd power unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant" and on repealing Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1785-A of 12 December 2019 and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 542-A of 3 May 2018", according to which the Action Plan implemented by the "Rusatom Service" Joint-Stock Company within the scope of the Project "Extension of the term for operation of the 2nd power unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant" was approved, then on 19 June

	<p>2020, Framework Agreement "Implementation of complexes of actions within the scope of extension of the term of operation of the 2nd power unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant" No 309/3283-Д/ААЭКД/ААЭК/9545-A-RP/01-01 was concluded between the "Armenian Nuclear Power Plant" CJSC and the "Rusatom Service" JSC, with the contract amount of USD 40 255 00.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of modernisation, the level of safety will increase, and it will be possible to increase the supplied capacity by at least 10% during the additional period of operation.</p>
27	<p>Elaborating a project for construction of a new nuclear power unit in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>27.1. Elaborating a project for construction of a new nuclear power unit in the Republic of Armenia and the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the above-mentioned documents, the Government intends to replace the operating power unit with a new nuclear power unit after its operation until 2036.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account the fact that construction of a new nuclear power unit requires, depending on the technologies, a period of 8-10 years, including the design, construction and commissioning, it is necessary to launch the works of development of a programme on constructing a new nuclear power unit in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The steps necessary for construction of a new nuclear power unit — technological solutions, funding mechanisms and sources, time limits for the construction, etc. will be clarified through the implementation of the Action.</p>
28	<p>28. Activities for rearming, modernising energy infrastructures and equipping them with the leading technologies</p> <p>28.1. Carrying out works of complete reconstruction of "Lichk" 220/110/35 kW voltage substation</p>

28.2. Carrying out works of complete reconstruction of "Charentsavan-3" 110 kW voltage substation

28.3. Carrying out works of complete reconstruction of "Zovuni" 220 kW voltage substation

28.3.1 Carrying out works of reconstruction of "Zovuni" 220 kW voltage substation

28.3.2 Carrying out works of complete reconstruction of "Zovuni" 220 kW voltage substation

28.4. Carrying out works of complete reconstruction of "Ararat-2" 220 kW voltage substation

28.4.1 Carrying out works of reconstruction of "Ararat-2" 220 kW voltage substation

28.4.2 Carrying out works of complete reconstruction of "Ararat-2" 220 kW voltage substation

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, point 13.3 of the document "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050", the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Thirteen 220 kW substations, two 110 kW substations and one switching point on the border with Iran, as well as 1960 km power transmission air lines with their 5,600 pillars are currently operated in the high-voltage power transmission network. Eight of the above-mentioned substations (220/110/10 kW voltage "Haghtanak", 220/35/10 kW voltage "Kamo", 220/110/10 kW voltage "Gyumri-2", 220/110/35 kW voltage "Vanadzor2", 220/110/35 kW voltage "Alaverdi 2", 110/10/6 kW voltage "Vanadzor 1", 220 kW voltage "Ashnak" and 220/110/35 voltage "Lichk") have already been completely reconstructed. Complete reconstruction of "Charentsavan-3" 110 kW, "Zovuni" and "Ararat-2" 220 kW substations at the expense of the funds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is currently being carried out. Additionally, it is envisaged to reconstruct 220 kW voltage "Shahumyan-2", "Marash" and "Eghegnadzor" substations at the expense of new credit funds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

At the same time, increase of the producing stations in the power system of the Republic of Armenia in recent years requires reviewing the capacities of the high-voltage substations and air lines for the purpose of delivering the produced electricity to the final consumer.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of the amount of USD 36 million provided under the Loan Agreement "Additional funding for the electricity supply reliability programme implemented with the support of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development" (hereinafter referred to as "The Bank"), it is envisaged to carry out complete reconstruction of "Charentsavan-3" 110 kW voltage and "Zovuni" 220 kW voltage substations, and within the scope of the amount of USD 39.86 million provided under the Loan Agreement "Power Transmission Network Improvement" — the reconstruction of "Ararat-2" substation. As part of

	<p>the reconstruction programme of “Charentsavan-3” substation, on 12 March 2021 Amendment No 3 to the Agreement was concluded and entered into force between “High Voltage Electric Networks” CJSC, contracting authority (hereinafter referred to as “Contracting authority”) and “Efacec Engenharia e Sistemas, S.A.” (Portugal) (hereinafter referred to as “Contractor”), based on which reconstruction works of the substation were relaunched. According to the renegotiated agreement the reconstruction works of the substation were scheduled to conclude on 16 March 2023. The contractor has repeatedly violated his contractual liabilities and the reconstruction of the substation has not yet been concluded. The Contractor and the Contracting authority have held a meeting during which they have discussed the provisions regarding termination of the agreement upon mutual consent. Inventory works have been conducted, leading to the preparation of an inventory act, within which, it has been noted that the equipment received, as per the invoices, is incomplete. The inventory act has been mutually signed. The Contracting authority has informed the Contractor through letters that, guided by the provisions of the agreement, they are obliged to initiate a unilateral rescission process of the Agreement, and the Bank has also provided its consent thereon. After the rescission process of the Agreement is completed, the further course of reconstruction of the substation will be determined.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the reliability and safety of electricity supply, increasing the current capacities of the transmission network.</p>
29	<p>Carrying out works related to the four-party (Armenia-Iran-Georgia-Russia) North-South Power Transmission Corridor Initiative</p> <p>29.1.Regulating technical issues, concluding relevant contracts</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, point 13.4 of the document “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050”, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Full implementation of the Project on Construction of the North-South Power Transmission Corridor, its Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Georgia power transmission lines and infrastructures play a key role in having an energy system of regional significance. This Project provides an opportunity for Armenia to serve as a bridge for both its integration with more global energy markets and, above all, its opportunities for having mutually beneficial electricity trade with Iran and Georgia.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The power system of Armenia is connected to the power systems of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Georgia and is of strategic significance for Armenia. However, it is subject to various technical restrictions, taking into account the fact that Armenia synchronously-parallelly works with Iran, Georgia and Russia. For the purpose of eliminating the existing restrictions as well as increasing the bandwidth, the Project on Construction of the Caucasian Power Transmission Network (Armenia-Georgia Power Transmission Line/Substations) is implemented, which will give a new impetus to the co-operation between</p>

	<p>the two countries in the field of energy. In parallel with the implementation of the above-mentioned Infrastructure Project, it is envisaged to develop an agreement on the principles of the Armenia-Georgia electricity trade, which will create preconditions for carrying out regular trade of electricity between the two countries.</p> <p>The relations with Georgia are also important as a transit country for natural gas, in terms of supplying natural gas from Russia to Armenia.</p> <p>Extending as much as possible the terms for the Armenia-Iran gas-electricity exchange programme and increasing the exchange volumes on mutually beneficial conditions are the guarantee of further deepening of these relations, with the view of which also the Project on the construction of a new Armenia-Iran 400 kW voltage power transmission line and the Project on the Caucasian Power Transmission Network are being implemented. Operation of the new infrastructures will enable exporting electricity within the scope of the gas-electricity exchange programme by increasing it to at least 5.0 billion kWh. The electricity exports will reach their maximum volumes by the end of 2025.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Performance of the relevant works/actions will contribute to the development of the North-South /Russian Federation-Georgia-Republic of Armenia-Islamic Republic of Iran/ mutually beneficial co-operation.</p>
30	<p>30. Constructing the Iran-Armenia 400 kW voltage power transmission air line and substation</p> <p>30.1. Completing import of pillars, equipment and construction of substations, excavation of pillar foundations, concreting, as well as installation of pillars and power transmission air lines</p> <p>30.1.1 Import of pillars, equipment and construction of substations, excavation of pillar foundations, concreting, as well as installation of pillars and power transmission air lines</p> <p>30.1.2 Import of pillars, equipment and construction of substations, excavation of pillar foundations, concreting, as well as installation of pillars and power transmission air lines</p> <p>30.1.3 Completing import of pillars, equipment and construction of substations, excavation and concreting of pillar foundations, as well as installation of pillars and power transmission air lines</p> <p>30.2. Putting into operation the power transmission air line and the substation</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>Construction of the Iran-Armenia 400 kW voltage double-circuit power transmission line is aimed at ensuring fulfilment of the obligations undertaken by the</p>

Armenian side under the gas-electricity programme, as well as developing mutually beneficial regional co-operation in the field of energy.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the Iran-Armenia electricity exchange capacity makes 300 MW. Problems arise with owners of the lands acquired for construction of the power transmission line and with the construction works of the pillars installed in the forest areas of the air line and the construction of their access roads. Due to the financial problems existing in the contractor "Sunir" company (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor"), as well as the accumulated debts to suppliers and subcontractors for the performed works and provided services, incidents of theft recorded at the "Noravan" substation and in the power transmission air lines, a decline in the progress of the works was recorded within the Action.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Ensuring change in the land categories with the relevant Staffs of Marzpets, communities and other interested parties and the acquisition of some of them under the right of ownership. On 4 June 2020, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No 888-A "On organising procurement processes through the procedure for single source procurement for carrying out deforestation and afforestation works in the forest areas of the "Hayantar" state non-commercial organisation of the Forest Committee of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of constructing the Iran-Armenia 400 kW voltage power transmission air line". According to the Decision, on 1 July 2020, an agreement on providing services of logging, transportation and storage of standing trees for the needs of the Company was signed between the "High Voltage Electric Networks" CJSC (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") and the "Hayantar" SNCO. The course of the Action was discussed at the 17th sitting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Armenia and during the meetings of the expert task forces. Taking into account that the implementation of the Action is under the direct control of relevant ministries and the Intergovernmental Commission of the two countries, an agreement was reached to discuss the issue of concluding a quadrilateral agreement to stabilise the financial flows of the Action ("High Voltage Electric Networks" CJSC (hereinafter "the Company"), SUNIR International FZE, "Sunir" and the Export Development Bank of Iran (hereinafter referred to as "EDBI")), as well as to organise a discussion of the progress of works at the site each quarter with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and to report on them to the co-chairpersons of the Intergovernmental Commission. Conditioned by the process of implementation of the Action, the extension of the process of implementation of works and incidents of theft recorded at the "Noravan" substation and in the power transmission air lines, upon the consent of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, the issue of Iran-Armenia third power transmission line and extending the validity period of the contract concluded between the Client and the Contractor for design, development, acquisition, supply and construction of relevant substation is being discussed in a prescribed manner. To ensure the progress of the Action, the Company has provided the Contractor EUR 2,550,000.0 from its own funds, which To ensure the progress of the Action, the company provided the contractor with EUR 2,550,000 from its own funds, which, upon payment, was considered repaid from the principal amount of the loan provided by Sunir International FZE. A letter was submitted by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia and the Company to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and National

	<p>Security Service of the Republic of Armenia with a request to take steps to prevent the new incidents of theft and to detect the stated incidents.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Construction of the new power transmission line will noticeably improve the quality of the service, will significantly promote the development of the mutually beneficial regional co-operation in the field of energy. As a result, the Iran-Armenia electricity exchange capacity will increase from the current 300 MW to 1000-1200 MW.</p>
31	<p>Implementing the Project on the Caucasian Power Transmission Network (Armenia-Georgia Power Transmission Line/Substations)</p> <p>31.1. Launching the tender process of construction of the 220/400 kW substation and the 400 kW air line, as well as the high voltage constant current transformer facility</p> <p>31.2. Launching and completing the construction of 220/400 kW substation and 400 kW air line, as well as the high voltage constant current transformer facility</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>The purpose of the construction of the Armenia-Georgia 400 kW voltage power transmission air line is to ensure stable operation with the power systems of Georgia and Iran, aiming at the joint operation of the power systems of the three countries in the parallel mode. The construction of the Armenia-Georgia power transmission air line will significantly promote the development of the North-South /Russian Federation-Georgia-Republic of Armenia-Islamic Republic of Iran/ mutually beneficial co-operation in the field of energy.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2017, a decision was taken on temporarily terminating the Project and discussing the possibilities of new technical solutions for the Project for the purpose of optimising the costs. Based on the results of numerous discussions held on the implementation of the Project and the discussion held with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on 30 October 2019, it was decided to implement the Project with the technical solutions provided for by the already concluded loan and grant agreements and to continue the Project by terminating the current tender processes and initiating new tenders with three lots. In addition, as a result of the discussion, taking into account the fact that the new tender process is an additional new task for the consulting company "Fichtner GmbH & Co.KG" (hereinafter referred to as "the Consultant") selected within the scope of implementation of the Project, which is not included in the scope of the Contract concluded with the Consultant, and the fact that the Contract had also been suspended during the suspension of the Project, it was assigned to ensure the reactivation of the Consulting Contract, by envisaging appropriate additional financial means for the organisation of the new tender process. As a result of the negotiations held between the Consultant and the "High Voltage Electricity Networks" CJSC (hereinafter referred to as "the</p>

Client”) implementing the Project, upon consent of the German Development Credit Bank (hereinafter referred to as “KfW”) and the Council for Management of Loan and Grant Programmes (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as the “Ministry”), Amendment to the Contract No 1 on the reactivation of the Consulting Contract concluded within the scope of the Project was signed on 17 December 2019, as a result of which the implementation of the Project was re-launched. As a result of the negotiations held between KfW, the Client and the Consultant on the continuation of the Project, the Parties have agreed that for the purpose of meeting the requirements of KfW (also conditioned by the suspension of the Project) it is necessary to conduct additional studies and research in preparation for the Project. With the support of the Consultant, draft packages of the pre-qualification documents (hereinafter referred to as “PPDs”) for conducting tender with three lots (Lot 1 — Ddmashen substation input/output, Lot 2 — power transmission lines and Lot 3 — construction of the high voltage direct current transformer station (HVDCTS)) for the selection of general contractors of the Project were prepared. After receiving the consent of KfW and approval of the Council, the PPDs for the selection of general contractors with all the 3 lots were, through the procedure prescribed, published on the German trading and investment platform on the official websites of the Ministry and of the Contracting Authority. Subsequently, following the examination of submitted bids in accordance with the established procedure, with the consent of the KfW and the decision of the Council, the pre-qualification results of Tenders for selection of general contractors for the three lots of the project were approved, according to which bids of the following companies were declared as qualified: for lot 1 Siemens Aktiengesellschaft (Germany), EFACEC Engenharia e Sistemas, S.A. (Portugal), for lot 2 KEC International Limited (India), Kalpataru Power Transmission limited (India) and for lot 3 Siemens Aktiengesellschaft (Germany), ABB Power Grids Sweden AB /COBRA Instalaciones Y Servicios S.A. Consortium (Sweden/Spain). The results of pre-qualification process on the three lots have been published on the Trade and investment platform in Germany and on the official websites of the Ministry and the Contracting authority in accordance with the prescribed procedure. All bidders (both deemed qualified and not qualified) have been informed on the assessment results. Subsequently, after coordinating with KfW and approval by the Council in the prescribed manner of tender documents (hereinafter referred to as “TD”) with three lots on selection of general contractors of the programme prepared by the Consultant, the Consultant shall provide the TDs to pre-qualified bidders in accordance with the prescribed procedure, establishing the deadline for submission of tender bids 24 October of 2023 for Lot 1, 25 October of 2023 for Lot 2 (to be extended until 25 January 2024) and 5 December 2023 for Lot 3. Tenders for selection of principal contractors with regard to Lot 1 and Lot 3 were cancelled due to the lack of bids. New tenders are planned through the “Limited Competitive Bidding” process, by an option allowing price offers to be received from pre-selected companies. The list of pre-selected bidders, prepared jointly by the consultant and the contractor, has been submitted to KfW for approval. At the same time, tender documents are developed. Tender for selection of the principal contractor is conducted in respect of Lot 2. The pre-qualified bidders, “Kalpataru” and “KEC” companies have submitted their technical and financial bids. As a result of assessment of technical bids, the above-mentioned bidders met the main requirements and passed to the next stage. Following the approval of the technical bid assessment report financial bids of “Kalpataru” and “KEC” companies were opened, the results of consideration whereof are submitted in the draft assessment report.

A tender process for selection of the general contractors will be conducted.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The PPDs with regard to Lot 1 and Lot 2 were published on 20 April 2020, setting a deadline for submission of applications for 3 June 2020, at 12:00 local time, and with regard to Lot 3 — on 7 May 2020, setting a deadline for submission of applications for 22 June 2020, at 12:00 local time. Conditioned by the

difficulties and restrictions created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting the requests of a number of applicants, upon consent of KfW and the Council, the deadlines for submission of applications for the pre-qualification process for conducting tenders with three lots for selection of the general contractors of the Project were extended to 7 July 2020, at 12:00 local time. Then, conditioned by the restrictions on courier services, meeting the requests of a number of applicants, upon consent of KfW and the Council, the office of the Fichtner Company (Germany, Stuttgart) was established as the place for submission of original copies of applications for the pre-qualification process with three lots for selection of the general contractors of the Project instead of the Client (Armenia), and the deadlines for submission of applications were extended to 31 July 2020, at 10:00 am German time. After studying the applications received as of the deadline and drawing up the assessment report, the PPDs assessment report was, through the procedure prescribed, submitted to KfW for review, after which KfW, after studying the assessment report, expressed its disagreement with the assessment results of Lot 1 and Lot 3 and recommended reviewing the report. Taking into account the disagreement of the Tender Commission with the position of KfW, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia Hakob Vardanyan applied, upon the motion of the Tender Commission, to Olaf Zymelka, Director for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Department of the German Reconstruction Bank (KfW), by requesting the latter's motion to reconsider the content of the Commission's comments. Reaffirming the position of KfW, Olaf Zimelka stated that they could not approve the Pre-qualification Assessment Report submitted by KfW, and requested to reassess the Pre-qualification Assessment Report. The Tender Commission reviewed and submitted the PPDs assessment report to KfW for approval. After receiving the consent of KfW, it was submitted to the Council for consideration. Following the approval of the Council, a tender process for selection of the general contractors will be conducted. Conditioned by the time periods of the processes of selection of the general contractors of the Project, amendments were made to the loan and grant agreements concluded within the scope of the Project, and the deadlines for the agreements were extended to 30 December 2025 and 31 December 2027. Taking into account the fact that as a result of the Project preparation actions carried out before the suspension of the Project within the scope of the defined goals, the funds are not sufficient for conducting the additional studies and research mentioned, as a result of negotiations, KfW stated that the Government of Germany was ready to provide additional grant means in the amount of EUR 550,000 for that purpose. A Financing Agreement for Provision of Expert Services on providing assistance in the amount of EUR 550,000 was concluded between KfW, the Republic of Armenia represented by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the Client. The consultant, based on the increase in raw material prices, the global financial market, and inflation, has conducted a rough recalculation of the program expenses, which now total EUR 335 million, whereas, the funds allocated under loan and grant agreements to implement the programme currently amount to EUR 188.75 million, including consultancy services and unforeseen expenses. Due to the extension of the tender process, KfW and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia are in discussions regarding the extension of the time limits for the availability of funds provided under the already concluded loan and grant agreements. The European Investment Bank, the World Bank, and the financial institutions of the French Development Agency are working to finance the difference between the loan and grant funds provided under the Programme and the most recently calculated budget, amounting to EUR 187 million.

4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Construction of new power transmission lines will noticeably improve the quality of the service, will significantly promote the development of the mutually

	beneficial regional co-operation in the field of energy. As a result of the first stage, the Armenia-Georgia electricity exchange capacity will increase from the current 200 MW to 350 MW.
32	<p>Effectively using the renewable sources and promoting the development thereof</p> <p>32.1. Constructing “Masrik-1” 55 MW peak capacity solar photovoltaic power plant</p> <p>32.2. Constructing “Ayg-1” 200 MW capacity solar photovoltaic power plant</p> <p>32.3. Supporting the processes of implementation of private projects for construction of wind power plants with a total capacity of about 500 MW and approval of investment programmes</p> <p>32.4. Elaborating a concept paper on the use of gravity water resources for energy purposes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>Action 32.5 derives from the pre-election promises of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia in Mantash community of Shirak marz on 9 June 2021. Implementation of the Action is aimed at creating new capacities promoting the development of renewable energy.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In the international tender announced for the Project on construction of “Masrik-1” 55 MW peak capacity solar photovoltaic power plant, the lowest tariff was presented by a consortium consisting of the Dutch "Fotowatio Renewable Ventures" and the Spanish "FSL Solar" companies. It constitutes 4.19 USD cent/kWh (around 20.11 AMD) without VAT.</p> <p>Within the scope of the investment programme "Masdar Armenia Programme" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1922-L of 26 December 2019, it is envisaged to carry out construction of “Ayg-1” 200 MW capacity solar photovoltaic power plant. Upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1022-A of 18 June 2021, the results of the tender procedure organised within the scope of the construction project of “Ayg-1” 200 MW capacity solar photovoltaic power plant of an industrial scale in Armenia were approved, and the “Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company” PJSC (“Masdar”) (United Arab Emirates) was announced as the winner.</p> <p>According to point 1.13 of the Strategic Plan for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia until 2040, it is envisaged to construct during 2025-2040 wind power plants with small and system capacity of up to 500 MW, by private investors in case of existence of competitive tariff offers. The potential of the existing gravity water reserves will be explored for using them for energy purposes.</p>

	<p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended providing assistance by the State to private investors throughout the whole process.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the level of energy independence by 2030, by increasing the share of solar energy production up to 15% or 1000 MW.</p>
33	<p>Improving the legislative framework and bringing it into compliance with the international obligations assumed</p> <p>33.1. Removing a number of technical regulations of the field of energy from the field of technical regulation and developing new legal acts</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and the requirements of sub-point "h" of part 1 of Article 5 and sub-point "b" of part 2 of Article 5.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On energy", according to which ensuring the safety of the field of energy and taking continuous measures for promoting and developing the introduction of the latest and high technologies in the field of energy are among the main principles of the state policy in the field of energy. Among the technical regulations existing in the field of energy in the Republic of Armenia, there are technical regulations which, according to the requirements of the new legislation, may not be considered as technical regulations and may not, therefore, be registered in the registry of technical regulations maintained by the co-ordinating body implementing the regulation of the sector. Based on the above-mentioned, in case of bringing the technical regulations in the field of energy of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On technical regulation", it is necessary to elaborate new draft normative decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, taking into account the fact that the energy system companies have different forms of ownership, and they operate within the framework of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, and the regulatory acts in question also contain norms that are subject to mandatory execution by all the organisations, irrespective of the form of their ownership.</p> <p>Under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, the Republic of Armenia has undertaken to gradually approximate, within the time limits prescribed, its legislation to the legislation set forth by the European Union Agreement, as well as it is necessary to possibly reduce the dependence on the imported hydrocarbon energy sources for the purpose of maximally and effectively using own renewable energy resources deemed to be an alternative thereto.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently a number of technical regulations existing in the field of energy have been approved in accordance with the requirements of Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On standardisation", which was repealed conditioned by the adoption of a new law. As the requirements for services and products have been differentiated according to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On technical regulation", the mentioned technical regulations may not be considered as technical regulations under the new legislation and may not, therefore, be registered in the registry of technical regulations maintained by the co-ordinating body implementing the regulation of the sector, as a result of which there will be gaps in the legal framework. Therefore, it is necessary to elaborate new regulatory legal acts, which will comply with the requirements of sub-point "h" of part 1 of Article 5 and sub-point "b" of part 2 of Article 5.1</p>

	<p>of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On energy”, as well as the EAEU obligations undertaken.</p> <p>The legislation of the Republic of Armenia does not provide for certain targets for the perspective development of renewable energy. The legislation of the Republic of Armenia nor stipulates the definitions of certain terms, as well as the marketing of energy sources deemed to be an alternative to hydrocarbon fuels and the relevant provisions ensuring development of the relevant infrastructures thereof.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Repeal a number of technical regulations in the field of energy, develop new rules and requirements for the operation and safety of the energy facilities, as well as make amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On energy saving and renewable energy”. The body co-implementing in the development of the Action is the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, as a state body authorised for technical regulation in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>New safety requirements will be established for suppliers and resident consumers, irrespective of the form of ownership.</p> <p>Legislative bases will be created for the perspective targeted development of renewable energy, as well as the marketing of energy sources deemed to be an alternative to hydrocarbon fuels and the development of the relevant infrastructures thereof.</p>
34	<p>Developing the 2022-2030 National Programme of the Republic of Armenia on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy</p> <p>34.1. Carrying out works of developing a new National Programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, point 13.1 of the document “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050”, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040), the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof and from the requirements of sub-point “j” of part 2 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On energy saving and renewable energy”. Taking into account the importance of energy safety for the development of the country's economy and national security, the Republic of Armenia has adopted a policy on strengthening and enhancing it and is taking continuous steps in that direction. Elaboration of the new National Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia is conditioned by the circumstances related to increasing the economic and energy safety, the level of reliability of the energy system of the Republic of Armenia, strengthening the economic and energy independence, creating new products and organising services promoting energy saving and development of renewable energy, as well as reducing the man-made impact on the environment and human health.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>One of the main documents aimed at promoting energy saving is the National Energy Saving and Renewable Energy Programme of the Republic of</p>

	<p>Armenia, which was approved by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2 of 2007. This Programme derives from the provision of sub-point “j” of part 2 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On energy saving and renewable energy” and defines measures for the time period until 2020. According to this Programme, actions for the promotion of energy saving are defined in the ten-year perspective — 2011-2020. At the same time, a step-by-step approach is defined as a result of reviewing these actions and the relevant targets, evaluating their results and assessing the changed situation, for the purpose of defining new actions and targets. Accordingly, elaboration of a new National Programme will be the logical continuation of the 2011-2020 National Energy Saving Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia for the next decade.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborating a new National Programme for 2022-2030.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The National Programme will define new sectoral measures and targets for 2022-2030, which will support the further formation of the Energy Saving Policy of the Republic of Armenia and the clarification of specific steps for the implementation thereof.</p>
35	<p>Implementing programmes for having knowledge-based and smart energy</p> <p>35.1. Introducing innovative technologies in the energy system companies</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Necessity for the Action derives from Section "Energy" of point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, the Strategic Programme for Development of the Field of Energy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 48-L of 14 January 2021 (until 2040) and from the plan-schedule ensuring the implementation thereof.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Sustainable and smart energy is one of the most important conditions for dynamic development of the economy. Being competitive in the world market, the sector of information technologies of Armenia should also be widely used to settle different issues in the field of energy. The first in this regard will be the trading in the wholesale electricity market, which will be fully implemented through the electronic platform in the next few years. The e-commerce platform of the wholesale market will be complemented by a unified information system for remote transmission and management of information on consumption volumes and other necessary indicators from the electricity metering systems of consumers connected to the distribution network, which will promote the process of liberalisation of the electricity retail market. At the same time, the SCADA management programme will be introduced in the power system, enabling the system operator not only to collect necessary data, but also to perform remote automatic management of the system equipment.</p> <p>In this context, new cyber security challenges will arise, and for the purpose of ensuring normal digital transformation of the field of energy, it is necessary to consider the introduction of the basic international standards for the practical implementation of information security.</p>

	<p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>International information security standards will be introduced in the energy companies, among which the ISO/IEC 27000 Security Management Systems (ISMS) and the NIST SP 800- 53 Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organisations standards are the priority standards. They include a description of the organisational and technical requirements for ensuring information security and developing a complete management system.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action will fully contribute to ensuring cyber security and digital transformation.</p>
36	<p>Implementing the State Support Programme for energy-efficient renovation of apartments and individual houses</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action derives from requirements of Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 520-L of 15 April 2022 and No 775-L of 26 May 2022.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to statistical data, there are 19183 multi-apartment buildings, with 446.0 thousand apartments, and 417,3 thousand residential houses (in total, about 860.0 thousand residential units) in the Republic of Armenia. About 80% of the existing housing fund (about 690.0 thousand residential units) was put into operation during the Soviet years, and in most part of this fund no renovation works have been carried out since the privatisation process. No energy-efficiency measures have been implemented in the mentioned part of the housing fund, as a result whereof although the households allocate a significant (if not the main) part of their income to paying for energy consumption, they are unable to sufficiently provide full heating of their residential areas. For that purpose, Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 520-L of 15 April 2022 and No 775-L of 26 May 2022 have been developed and adopted.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is planned by Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 520-L of 15 April 2022 and No 775-L of 26 May 2022 to introduce a State Support Programme for energy-efficient renovation of apartments and individual residential houses (hereinafter referred to as “ the Programme”), within the framework whereof the provision of affordable renovation loans (hereinafter referred to as “the Loan”) will create an opportunity to ensure for the population the improvement of housing conditions and energy-efficiency, by simultaneously involving the existing unrealised potential in the field of urban development.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Programme, it is expected to provide state support in terms of loans for energy-efficient renovation of apartments and residential houses, which will provide an opportunity to improve the housing conditions of the population.</p> <p>Regulating regular passenger transportation system</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the action stems from the “Transport” Section of point 3.1 of the “2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia” approved upon Decision AzhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The necessity for the action is conditioned by the need for ensuring permanent and comfortable transport communication between all communities and qualitative improvement of services provided.</p> <p>1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>A lot of communities in the Republic of Armenia are currently deprived of regular passenger transportation system, and the predominant part of the vehicles being operated is to be replaced. The liberalisation of taxi transportation has, in its turn, a negative impact on the activities of regular passenger transportation companies.</p> <p>1.3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Regulate taxi transportation by law; engage new companies with new vehicles in the transportation system; map routes; create an opportunity to receive information through mobile apps about routes, hours of departure, start/end points; introduce an electronic ticketing system; introduce an electronic traffic regulation service through which the traffic regulation service and carry out supervision.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increase in volumes of passenger transportation; improvement of the level of traffic safety and the quality of services provided.</p> <p>3. Link to strategic documents</p> <p>“Transport” Section of point 3.1 of the “2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia” approved upon Decision AzhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and point 9.3.2 of the Armenia Transformation Strategy.</p>
38	<p>Fulfilling obligations assumed under international agreements</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the action stems from the “Transport” Section of point 3.1 of the “2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia” approved upon Decision AzhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and is conditioned by the need for ensuring the compliance with point 20 of the “Transport” Section of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states, approved upon Decision No 666-L of 2 June 2019 of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The Action is targeted at proper fulfilment of the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia in the field of automobile transportation.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to the regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union, it is necessary to introduce unified electronic systems for rapid response in case of car accidents and levying road fees, as well as operate the stations for weighing vehicles.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Introduce the mentioned systems and ensure opportunities for rapid response of emergency teams in case of car accidents and levying uniform and non-discriminatory road fees.</p> <p>The co-implementing body for point 37.1 is the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia as the state authorised body responsible for implementing activities for rescue, rescue during accidents, urgent recovery after car accidents and firefighting activities in the rapid response system in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Integration with international regulations.</p> <p>3. Link to strategic documents</p> <p>“Transport” Section of point 3.1 of the “2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia” approved upon Decision AzhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021; point 20 of the “Transport” Section of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states, approved upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 666-L of 2 June 2019; point 3.2.1 of the Armenia Transformation Strategy.</p>
39	<p>Regulating the field of automobile transportation</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the need for ensuring the compliance with point 23 of the “Transport” Section of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, approved upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 666-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>The aim of the Action is laying down new and modern requirements in the field of automobile transportation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The legislation on the field is outdated, there is no clearly defined strategy on development, modernising the system requires an urgent solution.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>39.1. Develop and adopt legislation defining the requirements for transportation of hazardous cargo by automobile transport</p>

	<p>39.2. Adopt the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Strategy for reforms in the field of transport and regulation of the market”</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Development of transportation, implementation of complex security measures.</p> <p>3. Link to strategic documents</p> <p>Point 23 of the “Transport” Section of the Roadmap for Implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states, approved upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 666-L of 1 June 2019.</p>
40	<p>Updating the vehicles being operated</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity of the Action is conditioned by the urgency of updating the existing transport park and improvement of traffic safety.</p> <p>1.1.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There is no system in place for replacing the old cars with new ones, like those operating successfully in many countries.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Develop drafts of relevant legal acts aimed at solving the issue.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Updating the transport park, reducing threats to traffic safety.</p>
41	<p>Continuing to increase the quality and durability of interstate, republican and local automobile roads</p> <p>41.1. Renovation (capital renovation, medium renovation), reconstruction and construction of interstate, republican and local automobile roads</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements laid down in part 1 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a ground for the Action “Renovation (capital renovation, medium renovation), reconstruction and construction of interstate, republican and local roads”, and arises from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy for turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region, and the aim of this is to permanently ensure ongoing improvement of the quality of interstate, republican and local roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia and the structures located on those roads,</p>

which complies with the requirements for safe and uninterrupted traffic all year around.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Capital renovation and medium renovation works have been carried out with great momentum in the Republic of Armenia over the past years. In particular, in the previous 3 years, the annual average road construction works have exceeded the average volumes of the previous 10 years by more than 3.5 times. We have renovated and capitally renovated nearly 1,300 km roads. In the previous 10 years, 1681 km roads were renovated and capitally renovated. Out of all these roads, 1030 km were built with State Budget funds, while in 2008-2017, only 742 km roads were financed from state funds. The investments made and activities carried out in the road network before 2017 were mainly made and carried out with the loans mostly granted by international donor organisations. Through funds from the State Budget, nearly 20 km roads and 3 bridges have been capitally renovated in 11 borderline communities. However, it should be mentioned that in spite of the visible progress, the roads in Armenia are still in poor condition, and there is still a need for investments for their restoration and maintenance. Sustainable territorial development and balanced development of all territories lie at the core of progress of the country, and improvement of the road network is one of the major preconditions for improvement of the economic situation, balanced territorial development and integration into global economic relations.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Modernisation of the entire road network of Armenia will continue during the coming five years. As a result, a safe, efficient and maximally ecologically harmless network of roads will be created, which will also meet the demands of international transporters. The duration of traffic routes and transport expenses will be reduced for economic entities. This will, in its turn, foster trade and economic development. Within the scope of the financial resources being allocated, it is envisaged to capitally renovate the sections of the roads that need to be renovated first. Around 2600 km roads will be renovated before the end of 2026. In particular, it should be mentioned that works for reconstruction of the km25+000-km37+500 section of the H-46, M-2/-Tatev-Aghvani-/M-2/(Syunik) road are over. Before the end of 2021, reconstruction of the km37+500-km55+000 and km55+000-km68+000 sections of the H-46 road will end. Construction of the high-level km5+000-km42+100 Gandzakar-Itsakar road of the H-36, (M-4) (Ijevan) – Navur-Berd-Aygepar republican road will be launched in 2021 and end in 2022.

The following will also be carried out from 2022 to 2026:

- (1) capital renovation of the road leading to Cyclopean Fortress located in Ltchashen community of the Gegharkunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia;
- (2) construction of the Tandzaver-Shurnukh (from Goris section to Shurnukh section) road;
- (3) capital renovation of the T-3-52, (M-5)-Amasia-Nalbandyan(S-3-11)-Janfida-Pshatavan – (H-15) (Argavand) local road;
- (4) capital renovation of the T-5-23, (M-3) __ Saramej local road;
- (5) capital renovation of the T-3-38, (T-3-37) __ Norakert local road.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about 500 km of renovated, capital renovated and reconstructed roads per year; • improvement of automobile roads by ensuring safe traffic, an efficient and ecologically harmless network of roads meeting also the demands of international transporters; • reduction of the duration of traffic routes and transport expenses for economic entities, which will, in their turn, foster trade and economic development.
42	<p>Restoring tunnels and bridges</p> <p>42.1. Capital renovation, renovation, reconstruction of tunnels and bridges, particularly restoration of the tunnels of Dilijan and Pushkin</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements laid down in part 2 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a basis for the Action “Capital renovation, renovation, reconstruction of tunnels and bridges”, and its goal is to restore tunnels and bridges transferred for special protection.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The procedures for completion and acceptance of works for protection of tunnels and bridges located on automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia and transferred for special protection are approved upon Order of the Minister of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia No 710-N of 7 December 2010. The key objective of maintenance of the tunnels and bridges transferred for special protection is to constantly ensure their protection in a condition that meets the requirements for ensuring safe and uninterrupted traffic. The key objective of protection of the tunnels located on the automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia and transferred for special protection is to prevent the damages to structures, equipment and other elements of tunnels and bridges, for which works for inspection, supervision, care for tunnels and current renovation works shall be implemented.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing works for capital renovation, renovation or reconstruction of tunnels and bridges in accordance with the prescribed norms.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementing works for renovation, capital renovation and reconstruction of the bridges envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia annually.</p> <p>The design and estimate documentation for restoration of Dilijan and Pushkin tunnels is in preparation stage.</p> <p>Ensuring safe traffic in the tunnels and on the bridges located on the automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia</p>
43	<p>Improving furnishing for organising road traffic</p>

	<p>43.1. Equipping interstate and republican roads with technical resources for organising road traffic (road signs, traffic lights, road barriers, road line markings)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements laid down in part 3 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as points “b”, “c” and “d” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a basis for implementation of the action of improvement of furnishings for organising road traffic, and the goal of implementation is to establish improved standards of technical resources for organising road traffic (road signs traffic lights, road barriers, road line markings) and approved projects for distributions of road signs.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Road traffic furnishings that have been damaged, outdated and missing over the past years need to be restored and updated, which will allow to raise the level of road safety and contribute to the prevention of road traffic accidents (RTAs)..</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to replenish the missing road traffic furnishings, and to replace those that are damaged, outdated or not meeting current standards with new ones.</p> <p>Road traffic furnishings are proposed in the parts of automobile roads where they are needed, but are missing.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improvement of the level of safety of traffic participants; Equipment of the technical resources for organising road traffic (road signs, including road signs requiring information, traffic lights, road barriers, road line markings); availability of approved project (scheme) for distributions of road signs.</p>
44	<p>Raising the level of road safety — improving the [road accident] “black spots”</p> <p>44.1 Detecting “black spots” on state automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia and ongoing implementation of safety measures on the basis of an analysis of data on road accidents in order to eliminate the “black spots”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements laid down in part 4 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as in Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a basis for implementation of the Action. The issue of road safety is viewed as a key issue and an urgent priority under the five-year (2017-2021) National Strategy on Road Safety of the Republic of Armenia. To raise the level of road safety, it is necessary to carry out, on a regular basis, inventorising the “black spots” on common use state automobile roads, analysis of road accidents and ongoing increase of security measures.</p>

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

As statistical data show, the number of victims of road accidents in Armenia has increased over the past 10 years; whereas in 2010 there were 294 road accidents, in 2020 there were 248, and in first semester of 2021 already the indicator made up 168. It follows from this that in order to reach the highest level of road safety in Armenia, it is necessary to take relevant measures in order to achieve the “Vision Zero” and “Safe System Approach” policies.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

To raise the level of road safety, it is necessary to detect the “black spots” on common use state automobile roads on an annual basis, conduct an analysis of road accidents and take measures to eliminate sectors that may cause accidents.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- Improving road traffic safety.
- Reducing the number of road accidents caused due to safety factors of road transport infrastructure up to 20%. **44.2 Eliminating the dangerous spots on the “H-8” republican road and the “M-5” interstate road**

44.3 Eliminating the dangerous spots detected on the “M-2” and “M-4” interstate roads

44.4 Eliminating 10 and 12 dangerous spots identified on the “M-2”, “M-3”, “M-4”, “M-7”, “M-11” and M-14” interstate roads

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The requirements laid down in part 4 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as in Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a basis for implementation of the Action. The issue of road safety is viewed as a key issue and an urgent priority under the five-year (2017-2021) National Strategy on Road Safety of the Republic of Armenia which prescribes the realistic targets and relevant interventions. The indicator for fatal road accidents is approximately 18 for such accidents per 100 000 residents, which is three times higher than the average indicator in the European Union, which is 5 for such accidents per 100 000 residents. Taking into consideration the grave social and economic consequences of road accidents, the best plan was assessed and selected from the perspective of road safety, improvement of the road criteria and carrying capacity, and the measures to be implemented with regard to road safety on the M6 highway, as well as in the whole territory of the country form a part of the plan.

The grants provided by European investments have been geared towards improvement of the already-selected 30 dangerous spots on the M-2 (Yerevan-Meghri), M-4 (Yerevan-Ijevan), M-5 (Yerevan-Armavir-Turkey border), M-12 (Goris-Nagorno-Karabakh), M-17 (Kapan-Tsav-M2) and H-8 (Yerevan-Artashat Aygevan) roads, as well as additional dangerous spots to be detected during the programme; implementation of an audit of road safety on interstate and republican roads of Armenia for the purpose of detecting, assessing other dangerous spots and establishing the priority for investments; technical supervision of activities for improvement of dangerous spots for the purpose of bringing them into compliance with the best practice of the European Union and the best international practice of road safety.

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the scope of the project, in March 2021, two information panels have been placed on the M-6 road section and 9 dangerous spots were eliminated; those works will be completed by the end of 2021. Construction works aimed at the elimination of 21 dangerous spots are envisaged to be carried out by late September 2022.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Attracting new international investments and additional funds from potential financing organisations for the purpose of carrying out new actions for improvement of road safety in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The main expectations from the project are improvement of at least 40 dangerous spots and reduction of fatal road accidents by 20%.</p>
45	<p>Improving the lifeline road network</p> <p>45.1 Restoration, capital renovation of 12 roads included in the Programme “Second Additional Financing for the Lifeline Road Network Improvement Plan” (LRNIP AF2 Project)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 5 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”. The programme is being carried out within the scope of the N8957 AM loan agreement “Second Additional Financing for the Lifeline Road Network Improvement Plan” signed on 10 October 2019 between the Republic of Armenia and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The aim of the Project is to ensure the transport connection of communities with interstate and republican roads by restoring the selected lifeline roads, improve access to markets and services and availability of services for rural communities and build the capacities of the ministry in charge of the roads in order for the ministry to manage the Lifeline Road Network.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Implementation of the Project is regulated under the provisions of 12 contracts for completion of construction works and 4 contracts for provision of consulting services concluded within the scope of Loan Agreement N8957 AM “Second Additional Financing for the Lifeline Road Network Improvement Project”, which was signed on 10 October 2019 between the Republic of Armenia and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the “Safe Villages” component, 12 roads with a total length of 68,74 km will be restored, capitally renovated and rebuilt in the 16 beneficiary communities of the Project in the Armavir, Ararat, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Lori, Shirak and Aragatsotn marzes of the Republic of Armenia. Within</p>

	<p>the scope of the aforementioned, the road to Katnajor community is also being capitally renovated in Lori marz. It is envisaged to also carry out asphaltting in the 1 km section of the mentioned road not included in the Project, by making a change in the Project.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>At the end of the Project, it is expected that the economic and social conditions of the beneficiary communities will be improved after restoration works, the percentage of the local population using the roads on an annual basis will increase from the baseline 51% to 76.8%, the time spent on traffic on roads will be reduced, making the calculated speed increase from 20 km/h to 40 km/h; the level of traffic safety will be improved and the number of road accidents will drop through implementation of the “Safe Villages” component.</p>
46	<p>Continuation of implementation of the “North-South” Road Corridor Project</p> <p>46.1. Constructing the new technical Sisian-Kajaran II road section of Tranche 4, with a total length of nearly 60 km (with calculated speed of 100 km/h), including bridges with a total length of 4.7 km and tunnels with a total length of 12.5 km (the longest is the Bargushat tunnel, which will be nearly 8.6 km)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 6 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy for turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region. The aim of construction of the Sisian-Kajaran road section of Tranche 4 of the “North-South” Road Corridor Project is to construct the new technical Sisian-Kajaran II road section of Tranche 4, with a total length of nearly 60 km (with calculated speed of 100 km/h), including bridges with a total length of 4.7 km and tunnels with a total length of 12.5 km (the longest is the Bargushat tunnel, the length of which will make up nearly 8.6 km). Annex No 3 — “North-South Road Corridor Investment Project” — to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 14-A of 14 January 2010 serves as a basis for construction of the Sisian-Kajaran road section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Taking into consideration the fact that the construction works for the North-South Road Corridor Project in the northern direction are in the stage of implementation, it is necessary to focus the main attention on the southern direction (Tranche 4). Such a priority will enable to modernise the road section connecting to Iran, increase interest in transit traffic through the territory of Armenia, ensure the security of the southern regions of the Republic of Armenia, the required level of road safety, contribute to the economic development of the southern regions (Vayots Dzor and Syunik marzes of the Republic of Armenia) thereby improving the living standard of the habitants of the mentioned marzes. For this purpose, it is envisaged to carry out works for construction of the southern sections of the North-South Road Corridor Project (Tranche 4).</p> <p>The detailed plan for construction of the Sisian-Kajaran road section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is ready. It is necessary to resolve the issue of financing for the plan for construction of the mentioned section. Particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for financing the project have been submitted to such international financial organisations, including ADB, EBRD, and EIB. As a result

of comprehensive assessment and analysis of the Project, it has been divided into the following three sub-sections: 'Northern sub-section with a length of 27.125 km. Implementation thereof is envisaged using funds attracted from ADB and EIB.

✓ The Bargushat tunnel sub-section with a length of 8.65 km. Implementation thereof is envisaged with support of French Government.

- Southern sub-section with a length of 24.25 km. Implementation thereof is envisaged using funds attracted from EBRD and EIB.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Fulfilling the process of signing and ratifying the loan agreement and international procurement processes.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- Reduction of the length of the Sisian-Kajaran road section by nearly 58 km;
- Increase of the current average speed of 50 km/h of vehicles to up to 100 km/h;
- Reduction of the time for travel by nearly 1,5-2 hours;
- Increase of convenience and security;
- Increased trade turnover, reduction of transport expenses, promoting transit transportation, development of tourism.

46.2. Implementing activities for construction of the tunnel of Kajaran (length: nearly 7.0 km) and reconstruction of the nearly 4 km long section (entrance to tunnel in Kajaran: intersection at new, Sisian-Kajaran road section which is planned) of the existing M2 Yerevan-Yeraskh-Goris-Meghri-Iran border road of Tranche 4

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 6 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point "a" of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Automobile Roads", and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy for turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region. The aim of construction of Kajaran tunnel and its entrances as part of North-South Program's Tranche 4 is to carry out activities for construction of the tunnel of Kajaran (length: nearly 7.0 km) and reconstruction of the nearly 4 km long section (entrance to tunnel in Kajaran: intersection at new, planned Sisian-Kajaran road section) of the existing M2 Yerevan-Yeraskh-Goris-Meghri-Iran border road. Annex 3 "North-South Road Corridor Investment Programme") to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 14-A of 14 January 2010 serves as a ground for construction of the tunnel of and entrances to Kajaran.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The project for the construction of Kajaran tunnel and its entrances as part of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is ready, has undergone expert evaluation. It is essential to resolve the issue of financing the construction of the aforementioned section.

The Implementation of the Action is in progress.

Particularly:

- The period for construction works is 6 years, the warranty period is 2 years.
- The total cost of the project is USD 329.1 million (excluding taxes), or approximately USD 394.3 million (including taxes).
- Construction works is planned to begin the construction works in 2025 and end them in 2031.

The initial version of the detailed plan for construction of the tunnel of and entrance to Kajaran of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is ready (the final version will be ready in late July 2021). It is necessary to resolve the issue of financing for the plan for construction of the mentioned section.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Financing for the Project shall be carried out through the engagement of new loans or necessary funds from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- Increase of the current average speed of 50 km/h of vehicle to up to 80 km/h;
- Reduction of the time for traffic in the Kajaran-Agarak section by nearly 35-40 minutes;
- Minimisation of the use of the mountain pass of Meghri (at an altitude of 2535 meters above sea level), which will essentially raise the level of road safety and will enable to avoid difficulties with possibility in the mountain pass of Meghri during the winter;
- Increase of convenience and safety;
- Growth of trade turnover, reduction of transport expenses, promoting transit transportation, development of tourism.

46.3. Building the Ashtarak-Talin road section of Tranche 2 under I technical category with a total length of nearly 42 kilometres (with a calculated speed of 100 km/h)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in paragraph 8 of point 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as in Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region. The aim of construction of the 42 km Ashtarak-Talin section of Tranche 2 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is to build a road section under technical category I (with a calculated speed of 100 km/h) with a total length of nearly 42 km). The “North-South Road Corridor Investment Programme” Annex 3 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 14-A of 14 January 2010, as well as the loan agreement signed with the Asian Development Bank on 30 May 2011 (loan 2729-ARM) serve as a basis for construction of the 42 km Ashtarak-Talin section of Tranche 2 of the North-South Road Corridor Project.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Contractor of Tranche 2 (Spanish “Corsan-Corviam Construcción” company) terminated construction works at the end of 2018 and left Armenia. On 18 July 2019 the Spanish “Corsan-Corviam Construcción” company was notified about dissolution of the contract, several violations of the provisions stated in the contract by the Contractor, as well as the insolvency of the Contractor. In November 2019, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia submitted to the International Chamber of Commerce an application for initiating arbitration proceedings against “Corsan-Corviam Construcción” shareholding company.

Measures were taken to continue the Project through other contractor(s). In particular, the construction is envisaged to be carried out in two sections (km 29+600-km 37+545 and km 37+545-km 71+500). For this purpose, it is envisaged to involve a new engineer/consultant for the Project. With the aim of resuming construction works of Tranche 2 as soon as possible, it is envisaged to sign a contract with French “Egis International” company for the purpose of calculating the amounts not accomplished by the previous builder, modifying the existing plans, developing the documents for a new tender and the activities of the Engineer during construction, taking into consideration the fact that within the scope of the North-South Road Corridor Investment Programme, the “Egis International” company has developed the drafts of the plans of Tranches 1, 2 and 3, and within the scope of the Sustainable Municipal Development Investment Programme being financed by the Asian Development Bank, it is fulfilling the obligations of the Engineer. On 26 February 2021 a relevant contract was signed with the “Egis International and Cox Consult” joint enterprise. The works for re-design have started.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The works for construction of Tranche 2 are envisaged to finish at the end of December 2025.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- It is envisaged to build a road section with a total length of nearly 42 km under the I technical category (at a speed of 100 km/h).
- Reconstruction of the M1 highway consisting of 2 existing one-way traffic lanes into a two-way highway consisted of 4 traffic lanes meeting international standards
- The Investment Project will contribute to the following goals: (i) facilitation of the transit of interregional road transport, (ii) growth of trade flows, (iii) reduction of transport expenses, (iv) mobility and availability of markets, jobs and social services, (v) improvement of management.

46.4. Reconstructing the Kajaran-Agarak road section of Tranche 4 under the II technical category with a total length of 32 km (at a calculated speed of 80 km/h)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 6 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as in point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region. The aim of reconstruction

of the 32 km Kajaran-Agarak section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is to carry out activities for reconstruction of a road section under II technical category (at a calculated speed of 80 km/h) with a total length of nearly 32 km

The “North-South Road Corridor Investment Programme” Annex No 3 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 14-A of 14 January 2010, as well as the loan agreement signed with the Eurasian Development Bank on 14 April 2015 (Agreement on the provision of an investment loan from the Anti-Crisis Fund of the Eurasian Economic Community to finance “The North-South Road Corridor Construction” Project (Tranche 4) serve as a ground for reconstruction of the 32 km Kajaran-Agarak section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The initial version of the detailed plan for reconstruction of the 32 km Kajaran-Agarak section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is ready (the final version will be ready in late July 2021).

According to the plan, the initially assessed cost of construction of the 32 km Kajaran-Agarak comprises nearly USD 296,437,000 (including VAT: USD 49,405,000). The cost of the project (excluding taxes required by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia) amounts to USD 236.7 million, which includes USD 150 million from the Eurasian Fund for Stabilisation and Development and USD 86.7 million in co-funding from the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is necessary to resolve the issue of co-financing of the deficit of funds by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and make relevant changes in the provisions of the loan agreement.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- Reduction of the time for travel in the Kajaran-Agarak section by nearly 35-40 minutes;
- Increase of convenience and security;
- Growth of trade turnover, reduction of transport expenses, promoting transit transportation, development of tourism.

46.5. Implementing construction works in the 42 km section of the Tranche 3 Talin-Lanjik and Lanjik-Gyumri road

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 6 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region. The North-South Road Corridor Project needs to be a highway that meets international standards and needs to pass through the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia and connect the borders of Georgia and Iran to each other. The aim of the North-South Road Corridor Project is to become a competitive regional corridor that will connect Asia to the Black Sea and become engaged in the transit transport flows.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The current state of the North-South Road Corridor in certain sections, especially in the southern section does not meet the traffic safety requirements that would allow for move of the flow of international transit traffic within Armenia. For this reason, preference is given mainly to the territories of Azerbaijan and Turkey for international cargo transportation in the region, despite the fact that the transit direction through the territory of Armenia (through M-1 and M-2 interstate roads) is the shortest route linking the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Engagement of new international investments and additional funds from potential financing organisations in order to finish the North-South Road Corridor Project completely and as soon as possible. Construction of the 46,2 km Talin-Lanjik and Lanjik-Gyumri road section is envisaged to be carried out within the scope of the Action.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- Reconstruction of the M1 highway consisting of 2 existing one-way traffic lanes into a two-way highway consisted of 4 traffic lanes meeting international standards;
- Increase of convenience and safety;

Growth of trade turnover, reduction of transport expenses, promoting transit transportation, development of tourism.

46.6. Launching the works for designing and implementing, in stages, the Tranche 4' Artashat-Sisian road section under I technical category and with a total length of nearly 162 km, including bridges with a total length of 14 km and tunnels with a total length of 12.4 km

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 6 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point "a" of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Automobile Roads", and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region. The aim of reconstruction of the 165 km Artashat-Sisian section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project is to carry out works for design, in stages, the Artashat-Sisian road section with a total length of nearly 162 km under I technical category, including the bridges with a total length of 162 km and tunnels with a total length of 12.4 km.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

An initial plan was prepared for reconstruction of the 162 km Artashat-Sisian section of Tranche 4 of the North-South Road Corridor Project. However, design works need to be carried out for the implementation of construction works. Nearly USD 12 mln or nearly AMD 5760 mln will be required for the implementation of the additional design works.

The implementation of the Action is in process.

Particularly:

- The initial plan for the mentioned section is ready.
- The financial issue still remains unsolved.
- The plan outlining the scope of liabilities for the detailed design is ready.
- As soon as the funding is available, the detailed design works will begin.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Works for design of the Artashat-Sisian road section under the I technical category and with a total length of nearly 162 km, including bridges with a total length of 14 km and tunnels with a total length of 12.4 km will be implemented. Works for reconstruction of the 50-100 km road section will also be launched in case of availability of funds.”

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

- The design works for the Artashat-Sisian section are accomplished;
- Design-budget documents having undergone expert examination are available.

46.7. Tranche 5 Review of design and estimate document package of Gyumri bypass

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The detailed plan for the construction of the Gyumri bypass was developed in 2018, which envisions the construction of a new road under the 2nd technical category, with a length of 23 km. The necessity of the action is driven by the requirements of point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” and aligns with the objectives of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region and the considerations for ensuring continuity of construction of the North-South Road Corridor.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to design of the Gyumri bypass with a length of 23 km, Azatan-Keti road under the 2nd technical category was envisaged to be constructed. However, taking into consideration the fact that it is planned to construct a “dry port” in the region, the construction of the 1st category road will enhance the strategic significance of the project. This road may become one of the essential parts of the crossroads of peace, connecting the West with the East and facilitating international cargo transportation, thereby contributing to strengthening the role of the Republic of Armenia in the region.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

	<p>Attracting new international investments and additional funds from funding organisations will be required for full and prompt implementation of the plan.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Design and construction of a 23 km road section under the 1st technical category (with a designed speed of 100 km/h), aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of transit transport flows in the region.</p>
47	<p>Completing reconstruction of the M-6, Vanadzor-Alaverdi-Bagratashen interstate road</p> <p><u>47.1. Restoration and improvement of the km38+450-km90+191 of the M6 Vanadzor-Alaverdi-border of Georgia interstate road</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 7 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” <i>for completing the works for capital renovation of the Tumanyan-Bagratashen border checkpoint km 38+450-km 90+191 section of the M6, Vanadzor-Alaverdi-border of Georgia interstate road</i>, and stems from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The activities were launched on 29 May 2018 and are currently underway.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The works are envisaged to be completed before the end of 2021, unless the weather is a hindrance. At the same time, due to the changes in design, it is envisaged to move the works of nearly 100 m long bridge of Alaverdi and the nearly 500 m long junction at Odzun intersection to the third ten-day period of December 2022.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2022, reduction of the period of traffic from Vanadzor to Bagratashen up to 100 minutes compared with 110 minutes in 2014; ● In 2022, increase of intensity of traffic on average per day up to 3500 automobiles per day compared with 2800 automobiles per day in 2014; ● In 2022, more than 1 mln tons of cargo transportation through the Bagratashen customs point compared with 0,85 mln tons in 2014.
48	<p>Modernising the northern corridor</p> <p>48.1. Construction of a new bridge at the Bagratashen border checkpoint</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>The requirements laid down in part 2 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” and Loan Agreement No 43826 granted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development within the scope of the Northern Border Modernisation Programme, concluded on 23 November 2012, the inter-governmental agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia, concluded on 24 December 2014, as well as Decision of the Government No 1564-A of 24 September 2020 serve as a basis for construction of a new bridge in the premises of the Sadakhlo-Bagrashen checkpoint. Implementation of the Action arises from the goals of the 2020-2050 Armenia Transformation Strategy on turning Armenia into a major overland transport hub in the region.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>An old bridge which was built during the years of the USSR and is technically not fit with the current requirements is being operated in the Sadakhlo-Bagrashen checkpoint; the bridge is no longer capable of serving the volume of the current cargo transportation and passenger transportation of strategic significance, as the type, amounts and workload of modern freight trucks, as well as the amount of passenger transports does not correspond to the baseline and old data of the existing bridge, as a result of which the capacity of the bridge does not meet the requirements of the checkpoint.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The design of the new bridge meets international standards and the requirements for capacity of the checkpoint concerned, with 4 traffic zones and a wider surface, separate bridges for each direction; this will essentially reduce the time limit for crossing the checkpoint and will increase convenience.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>After implementation of the actions envisaged by the plan, it is expected to have an infrastructure that meets international standards, including 2 bridges with a length of 160 metres, consisting of 5 flights, each with a length of 32 metres, approaching roads, modern systems of water disposal and lighting, sidewalks for pedestrians.</p>
49	<p>Enhancing the automobile road infrastructure</p> <p>49.1. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the “Strategy on Automobile Roads in the Republic of Armenia”” for the purpose of enhancing the automobile road infrastructure in the Republic of Armenia to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Proceeding from the requirements laid down in part 8 of paragraph 3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, it is necessary to establish a sustainable institutional system of road network management aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the activities of road and transport infrastructures by improving the quality of meeting the requirements of the economy and society and ensuring safe and effective provision of transport services. The necessity for implementation of the Action stems from the requirement in point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia</p>

	<p>“On Automobile Roads”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the need for establishing an integrated and unified road system has emerged, which will be characterised by the principles for state control over roads, technical regulation and development of the market of new technologies as integrity of the components of the unified planned complex for development of roads.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The strategy will be developed on the ground of the recommendations submitted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) within the scope of the document “National Strategy on Transport and Promotion of Trade” developed with the technical assistance of the ADB. The Strategy will predetermine the main directions proposed by the Strategy and will prescribe the goals and steps for development of the automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action; modernisation of the mechanisms for planning and implementation of road programmes; improvement, management and increase of road traffic safety; effective funds management and sustainable development of road network.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Strategy on Automobile Roads in the Republic of Armenia” is developed. The Draft Decision is approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
50	<p>Introducing and using the latest technologies and methods for increasing control over the quality of construction materials and road construction, rearming the state laboratory</p> <p>50.1. Developing a plan for introducing and using the latest technologies and methods in the road construction sector and submitting recommendations to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 9 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, which is aimed at exploring and introducing the sector-specific innovative engineering programmes (new and unique approaches, solutions and methods).</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the scope of the “2020-2040 Strategy on Promotion of Transport and Trade in Armenia” being carried out with the support of the Asian Development Bank, for the purpose of considering the innovative approaches and methods for improvement of roads, new technologies and engineering solutions for traffic management and regulation during road construction, as well as with the aim of increasing effectiveness of the road management model, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia envisages holding a workshop where innovative, sector-specific engineering projects (new and unique approaches, solutions and methods) will be presented, and the opportunities for introducing those programmes will</p>

	<p>be considered. Within the scope of the aforementioned, it is envisaged to develop, on the basis of the best innovative proposals, a plan for introducing and applying the latest technologies and methods in the road construction sector.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Development of a plan for introducing the latest technologies and methods in the field of road construction upon the best innovative recommendations.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>A plan for introduction and application of the latest technologies and methods in the field of road construction developed and approved for the purpose of increasing the durability, quality and effectiveness of the road network.</p>
51	<p>Introducing the road safety system</p> <p>51.1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” and drafts of related laws drafted in accordance with the EU Directives on road safety to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in part 11 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”. The mentioned Action stems from the 2004/54/EC Directive of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 29 April 2004 on the Minimum Safety Requirements for Tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network and 2008/96/EC Directive of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 19 November 2008.</p> <p>1.2 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the scope of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement of the European Parliament and the Council concluded on 29 April 2004 between the European Union and the member states of the European Atomic Energy Community, the Republic of Armenia has committed to apply, that is, localize, Directive 2004/54/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 29 April 2004 on the Minimum Safety Requirements for Tunnels in the Trans-European Road Network and EC Directive 2008/96/ of 19 November 2008 provided for by Annex 1 to the Agreement. To ensure their implementation, it is necessary to make amendments and supplements to legislative acts related to the road sector, particularly the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” and add provisions concerning the minimum requirements for management of road infrastructure and for safety in tunnels that are required under the Directives.</p> <p>1.3 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The following needs to be carried out for compliance with the Directive:</p> <p>(1) regularly testing and inspecting tunnels, as well as setting safety requirements for the tunnels;</p>

(2) developing regimes for organisation and exploitation (including plans for response to accidents) for training and rearmament of the personnel of rescue teams;

(3) establishing a procedure for immediate closure of a tunnel in case of an accident, conducting necessary measures for reducing risks

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Legislative regulation for safety of road infrastructure in accordance with the international practice; setting, by law, the minimum safety requirements for tunnels.

51.2 Establishing a road audit system (setting requirements for conducting road audit, setting procedures, qualifying auditors)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in paragraph 3 of point 3.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The mentioned Action stems from the requirements in Directive 2008/96/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 19 November 2008, as well as Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Within the scope of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement of the European Parliament and the Council concluded on 29 April 2004 between the European Union and the member states of the European Atomic Energy Community, the Republic of Armenia is committed to apply, that is, localize, according to Directive 2008/96 of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 19 November 2008 on Management of Road Infrastructure Safety, provided for by Annex 1 to the Agreement; there needs to be approval and application of the provisions related to assessment of the impact of road safety, the audits of road safety, management of safety of the road network and safety inspections. The aforementioned applies to roads forming a part of the Trans-European road network, regardless of the fact that they are in the stage of design or construction or are in the stage of exploitation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Introducing a system of auditors for road infrastructure safety.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Introduction of the system of road safety management and the institution of auditors

51.4. Conducting a training course for audit of road safety in accordance with international standards

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements laid down in paragraph 3 of point 3.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.

The issue of road safety is viewed as a key issue and urgent priority under the five-year (2017-2021) National Strategy on Road Safety in the Republic of Armenia which prescribes realistic targets and appropriate interventions. The indicator of fatal road accidents is approximately 18 such accidents per 100 000 residents, which is three times higher than the average indicator of the European Union, which is 5 such accidents per 100 000 residents.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In August 2021, it is planned to sum up the component for modernisation of the existing road safety standards and norms in the Republic of Armenia and implementation of institutional reforms and the Training Course for Audit of Road Safety in accordance with International Standards.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing situations

Engagement of new international investments and additional funds from potential financing organisations for the purpose of implementing new actions for improvement of road safety in the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Training and accreditation for at least 40 road safety auditors.

51.5. Applying the minimum safety requirements for tunnels

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The presented Action stems from the need for implementation of the requirements of Directive 2004/54/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe of 29 April 2004 on Minimum Safety Requirements for Tunnels of the Trans-European Road Network, as well as the requirements in Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In August 2021, it is envisaged to sum up the component for modernisation of the existing road safety standards and norms in the Republic of Armenia and implementation of institutional reforms and the Training Course for Audit of Road Safety in accordance with International Standards.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Engagement of new international investments and additional funds from potential financing organisations for the purpose of implementing new actions for improvement of road safety in the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

	<p>Training and accreditation for at least 40 road safety auditors.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring of the minimum safety level for participants of road traffic in tunnels in accordance with the European Union standards.</p>
52	<p>Assessing the existing road management system of assets and implementing future necessary reforms</p> <p>52.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1419-N of 4 November 2010” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements in part 11 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a ground for implementation of the Action, which is aimed at assessing the existing system of management of the road assets and implementing the necessary reforms. Within the scope of the mentioned, it is necessary to make amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1419-N of 4 November 2010 for specifying the criteria for summer and winter maintenance of interstate, republican and local roads and introducing the new system of control through a mobile app.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to the Procedure for assessment of the levels of summer and winter maintenance of automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia and for acceptance of the completed works, established by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1419-N of 4 November 2010, (hereinafter referred to as “the Procedure”), contractor organisations carry out works for maintenance of automobile roads according to the relevant regions. Pursuant to point 8 of the Procedure, assessment of the current condition of roads, the levels of summer and winter maintenance of automobile roads and acceptance of the completed works are carried out by the responsible subdivision for maintenance of roads of the public administration body for the automobile roads concerned. However, the functions performed by the responsible subdivision do not comply with the functions of the responsible subdivision for procurement prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. In addition, a number of functions for assessment of the current condition and level of maintenance of the automobile roads prescribed by the Decision, as well as acceptance of the works for maintenance need to be modernised.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to review the provisions of the Decision by bringing them into compliance with the existing requirements of the legislation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Bringing the functions performed by the responsible subdivision for maintenance of roads into compliance with the functions of the responsible subdivision for procurement prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	Setting additional requirements in accordance with the costs of the works for maintenance of automobile road by ensuring ongoing reforms in the activities for maintenance.
53	<p>State registration of roads</p> <p>53.1. Measurement and state registration of interstate and republican roads</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements in part 11 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as point “a” of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a ground for the action of state registration of roads, and the goal is to register the right of ownership over interstate and republican roads.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia are record-registered in the name of the Republic of Armenia, but there are no certificates of state registration of the right of ownership of those roads available.</p> <p>It is expected that the Committee will provide support in all stages of implementation of the Action (including during implementation of the pilot programme). Taking into consideration the fact that there are state registered rights with respect to land parcels included in the package of the aforementioned programmes, the issue of alienation and resettlement of those lands may be regulated under the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On alienation of property for ensuring overriding public interests”. Thus, this Action may be carried out after the adoption of the drafts of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law “On state registration of property rights”” and the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedure for correcting mistakes detected in the cadastre map”, developed by the Cadastre Committee.</p> <p>In the initial stage, it is envisaged to carry out a pilot programme</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementation of the pilot programme for registration of the right of ownership over interstate and republican roads and registration of ownership over the roads, jointly with a relevant specialised organisation. The Action may be implemented only in case of allocation of funds from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The process of registration of the right of ownership over interstate and republican automobile roads will be carried out in case of allocation of funds from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
54	Regulating the process of organising road traffic, bringing them into compliance with the technical regulations

	<p>of the Eurasian Economic Union</p> <p>54.1. Submitting the drafts of the Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on making amendments and supplements to Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1206-N of 29 June 2006, No 1699-N of 26 October 2006 and N 113-N of 10 January 2008 to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The requirements in part 14 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Articles 4 and 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a ground for the Action, and the aim is to bring the regulation of the process of organising road traffic into compliance with the technical regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to Decision of the Eurasian Economic Union N 28 of 14 April 2015, it is necessary to adapt the CU TR 014/2011 “Safety of Automobile Roads” technical regulation — approved upon Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union N 827 of 18 October 2011 — to the legislative acts regarding safety of automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia, and this is why the need has emerged to make amendments to Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1206-N of 29 June 2006, N 1699-N of 26 October 2006 and N 113-N of 10 January 2008.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Bringing Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1206-N of 29 June 2006, N 1699-N of 26 October 2006 and N 113-N of 10 January 2008 into compliance with the mentioned regulation of the Customs Union of the Eurasian Economic Union.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Clarification for fully providing the automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia with technical resources to organise road traffic</p>
55	<p>Assessing the impact of climate change on road infrastructures and carrying out mitigating actions</p> <p>55.1. Assessing the risks of climate change on the automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia; developing and implementing a plan for adaptability of climate change in the current activities, in accordance with the best international practice</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity of the Action is conditioned by the requirements in part 12 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, that is to say, assessment of the impact on roads with respect to climate change and development of relevant mitigating actions and ensuring their implementation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>Currently, no assessment of the risks of climate change on automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia is being carried out. The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the fact that it is necessary to take into consideration the requirements for environmental norms in the process of road construction, capital renovation, renovation and maintenance.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The risks of climate changes on the automobile roads for common use will be carried out and the plan for adaptability of climate change in the current activities will be developed, in accordance with the best international practice.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The plan for adaptability of climate change is developed. The impacts of the key factors for climate change are taken into consideration in road construction works; in particular, the impact of change of road cover conditioned by change of precipitation and temperatures is being assessed.</p>
56	<p>Building capacities of road specialists</p> <p>56.1. Developing an annual plan for education and training for road specialists and organising their training every year</p> <p>56.2. Establishing mechanisms for assessing and building the capacities of key entities (clients, planners, contractors, persons carrying out technical supervision, etc.) involved in the road sector</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the requirements in parts 13 and 15 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Road specialists need to undergo training on a regular basis. Meanwhile, large-scale activities have been carried out in the Republic of Armenia over the past years for ensuring safe traffic on the automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia. There are still, however, a number of automobile roads that are in bad condition.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Developing an annual plan for education and training for road specialists and organising of courses every year.</p> <p>Through the second Action presented, it is envisaged to make the process of restoring and improving the automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia ongoing, ensuring integrity of the network of interstate, republican and local automobile roads through capially renovated automobile roads that meet the norms of road construction.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growth of professional potential through education and training of road specialists, including at the leading educational institutions abroad and international construction and engineering companies, exchange of the leading international practice; 2. Assessment of the capacities and increase of quality of key entities involved in the road sector; 3. At least 30% of road specialists will undergo training every year; 4. Every year, at least 10 road specialists will undergo training at the leading educational institutions abroad and at international construction and engineering companies.
57	<p>Prescribing stricter liability for damages caused to roads, including theft of and/or damage to road signs and other elements of furnishings</p> <p>57.1. Submitting the drafts of the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Armenia” and “On making amendments and supplements to the Criminal Code” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the need for ensuring the compliance with part 16 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Article 150.2 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Armenia and part 1 of Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Road users (drivers, pedestrians, etc.) often cause damages to roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia; there have been cases of theft of road signs, causing the State pecuniary damages up to large amounts.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The drafts of the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Armenia” and “On making amendments and supplements to the Criminal Code” will be developed, which will make the penalties and liability measures provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for damages caused to roads stricter.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Prescribing stricter provisions for administrative and criminal liability for damages caused to roads.</p>
58	<p>Regulation of the construction in territories located in the protection zones of roads</p> <p>58.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2404-N of 29 December 2005 to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the need for ensuring the compliance with part 14 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The need to set additional legislative requirements for areas in the protection zones of roads as objects for special regulation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2404-N of 29 December 2005” will be developed, which will regulate the provisions related to construction of areas located in the protection zones of roads.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Setting legislative requirements for areas as special regulation facilities located in the protection zones of roads, developing a unified policy on disposal and management of those areas</p>
59	<p>Preventing facilities built or being built in the areas adjacent to automobile roads without the consent of the person disposing the road</p> <p>59.1. Inventorising the facilities built or being built in the areas adjacent to automobile roads without the consent of the person disposing the road and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia recommendation on dismantling facilities posing a threat to road traffic safety</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the inventorisation and dismantling of facilities built or being built in the areas adjacent to automobile roads without the consent of the person disposing the road, with the main purpose having to ensure traffic safety and exclude disturbing facilities. The requirements in part 16 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as Articles 14 and 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads” served as a ground for implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Pursuant to point “a” of part 6 of Article 13 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”, it shall be prohibited to construct buildings, structures, engineering communications or perform mining research and extraction works in the protection zones of automobile roads for common use without agreeing with the persons disposing those roads and other interested bodies.</p> <p>According to point 1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2404-N of 29 December 2005, the state automobile roads for common use in the Republic of Armenia (interstate and republican) and the areas adjacent thereto shall be distinguished as special regulation facilities for urban</p>

	<p>development activities. In accordance with part 2 of point 8 of the Decision, in cases and as prescribed by law, the functions for implementation of urban development activities are initially agreed with the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and other interested public administration bodies.</p> <p>However, it became clear during completion of a number of road construction programmes that unauthorised, unlawful constructions which obstruct traffic safety had been carried out in the protection zone of interstate and republican automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia without the consent of the person disposing the road, and, as a result, unfavourable changes of the hydrological regime or violation of the stability of elements of the relief may emerge in the lands of protection zones (landslides, collapse of slopes, gorges, ponds or swamps of lands).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To ensure traffic safety on roads, it is necessary to inventorise the unauthorized constructions on roads, and later prevent and exclude the construction of such structures — make the process of approving the construction in the protection zones of interstate and republican automobile roads stricter.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventorising facilities posing danger to the road safety and submitting recommendations on the dismantling thereof. Shaping a common approach to facilities illegally located along the length of automobile roads in the Republic of Armenia, legislative amendments will be made where necessary. In particular, the process of approving the construction in the protection zones of interstate and republican automobile roads will be reviewed and clarified.
60	<p>Promoting the format of public-private partnership in the road sector</p> <p>60.1. Developing plans for public-private partnership in the road sector and submitting recommendations to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity of the Action is conditioned by the need for ensuring the compliance with part 17 of paragraph 3 of Chapter 3.2 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On public-private partnership”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of engaging investments in the road sector it is necessary also to engage private organisations in construction, capital renovation and building of roads.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The opportunities for engagement of private organisations in road construction will be studied, and the plan for public-private partnership in the road sector will be developed</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plans for public-private partnership in the road sector are developed • The plans for PPP being carried out in accordance with PPP contracts are available <p>At least 2 PPP contracts are available on construction, capital renovation and building prior to 2026</p>
61	<p>Constructing ground roads leading to “alpine” meadows and pastures</p> <p>61.1. Construction of ground roads leading to “alpine” meadows and pastures</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the pledge made during a visit to the Tavush marz of the Republic of Armenia during the pre-election campaign, particularly the one regarding building a ground road leading to “alpine” meadows and pastures, as well as the requirements of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>For the purpose of restoration or protection of nature, as well as for ensuring additional revenues for “alpine” meadows, national parks and the development of historical-cultural, educational and scientific-cognitive (archaeological, geological), ecological, ethnographic and other forms of tourism, it is necessary to build a ground road in order to ensure access to those sites.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Construction/reconstruction of ground roads leading to touristic areas (“alpine” meadows and national parks).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Construction/reconstruction of ground roads.</p>
61	<p>Reconstructing inter-community roads, as well as other infrastructures (bridge) for the southern regions of Armenia</p> <p>61.1 Reconstruction of nearly 250 km inter-community and 50 km intra-community roads and a bridge for the southern regions of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by point 4.2 of Guideline 4 of the programme for assistance from the EU in the amount of EUR 2,6 bln conditioned, particularly, by the reconstruction of nearly 250 km inter-community and 50 km intra-community roads in the southern regions of Armenia, as well as taking as a basis the requirements in Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Automobile Roads”.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>The experience in managing migration flows that emerged as a result of the war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Artsakh on 27 September 2020, the military-political situation created in the region, several communities located in the south of Armenia are deprived of infrastructures due to new possible crises. In particular, a need has emerged to restore the link of rural communities to each other and municipal communities in order to secure the inter-community and intra-community roads of the borderline communities of Syunik marz of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Reconstruction of nearly 250 km inter-community and 50 km intra-community roads and a bridge and ensuring of unobstructed transport communication in the southern regions of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring of safe traffic for southern regions of Armenia through nearly 250 km inter-community and 50 km intra-community roads and a bridge.</p>
62	<p>Increasing the quality of traffic safety and services of railway transport</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the need for urgent updating and modernisation of the railway rolling stock for increasing the volumes of passenger transport and cargo transportation, for increasing the level of traffic safety and services provided; capital renovation of the 37 km line, according to the agreement reached.</p> <p>1.1. Current state of relations for regulation and the existing issues</p> <p>Currently, the rolling stock operated by “South Caucasus Railway” Closed Joint-Stock Company is outdated and does not meet the technical requirements. The operating rolling stock does not allow ensuring the necessary level for quality of services provided, trafficking safety and competitiveness compared with other types of transport.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Acquisition of new rolling stock for passengers and trucks, modernisation of the existing rolling stock.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increase in volumes of passenger transport and cargo transportation, increase of the level of traffic safety and quality of services provided.</p>
63	<p>Reviewing subsidisation of damages caused by railway passenger transport</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by maintenance and further development of the existing railway infrastructures.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The amount of subsidisation is currently regulated under the existing Concession Contract the provisions prescribed whereby do not allow to ensure maintenance and modernisation of infrastructures through the existing method of subsidisation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Developing new mechanisms for subsidisation and amending the relevant provisions of the Concession Contract.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Maintenance and development of infrastructures, increase of the level of traffic safety.</p>
64	<p>Enhancing opportunities for commercial shipping</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Opportunity for commercial shipping under the flag of the Republic of Armenia and the creation of relevant legislation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the absence of relevant legislation does not allow for implementation and development of commercial shipping under the flag of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Creation of relevant legislation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Development of commercial shipping and increase of cargo turnover under the flag of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
65	<p>65.1, 65.2. Ensuring the process of approval of the 5-year Master Plan presented by “Armenia” International Airports” Closed Joint-Stock Company</p> <p>2. Implementation of the Master Plan</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to enhance and modernise the infrastructures of “Zvartnots” Airport of Yerevan and “Shirak” Airport of Gyumri in accordance with the international standards and the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the recommended practice.</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1532-A of 27 December 2018 and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N</p>

1237-A of 29 July 2021.

Point 3, sub-point 3.1 (Air Transport) of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Form 1, point 38.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The manager (concessionaire) of the Airport shall submit a new Master plan for the coming 5 years once every 5 years. The period of the current Master plan ends in 2022 and, due to the coronavirus pandemic, it has undergone certain revisions.

At the same time, by taking into account the volumes of passenger turnover and the new realities, the priorities and directions for investments will be reviewed according to priorities, making them fall in line with the expected developments. The Master plan envisages actions that will help improve airport infrastructures and contribute to the increased levels of flight and aviation safety.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Under the Master plan, it is envisaged resolving the issues of modernisation of airport infrastructures through investments for every year.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The expected outcome from implementation of the Action is bringing the infrastructures of airports into compliance with international standards, the growth of passenger flow through regular development and modernisation of the infrastructures of airports, which will contribute to the economic growth of the Republic of Armenia.

65.3. Inventorising concession assets

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

According to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 264-N of 17 March 2016, fulfilment of the requirement to show the results of inventorisation and re-evaluation of assets in annual financial reports shall be ensured through transition to the new system of accounting.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Several changes have been made in the composition of property provided to “Armenia International Airports” Closed Joint-Stock Company under concession in 2001, and precise inventorisation of provided property is not carried out. The submitted lists showing the results of inventorisation carried out by “Armenia International Airports” Closed Joint-Stock Company and submitted to the State Property Management Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia are incomplete, and the destinies of certain immovable and movable properties, as well as a tremendous amount of resources are uncertain.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of adjusting the composition of property available in the list of concession assets, it is proposed to set up an inter-agency commission, by

	<p>engaging the relevant employees of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, the State Revenue Committee, the State Property Management Committee, the Civil Aviation Committee and “Armenia” International Airports” Closed Joint-Stock Company.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Based on the results of comparison with the study and field inspection carried out by the commission and the data on the list of concession assets attached to the contract, substantiated opinions on future disposal of (release of main, useless resources, commodity resources) the assets concerned (buildings, constructions, land parcels and other concession assets) will be submitted.</p>
66	<p>Expanding the geography of flights to and from the Republic of Armenia and ensuring affordable air transportation</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the expansion of geography for air flights, the creation of new opportunities for local airline companies and the engagement of new airline companies in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia, which will contribute to the multifaceted development of the aviation market in the Republic of Armenia and the establishment of healthy competition, as well as to the development of economy and infrastructures, as a result of which reduction of tariffs of air tickets is also envisaged.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Civil Aviation Committee is leading ongoing negotiations with airline companies in order to engage them in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia, and activities are being carried out to create favourable conditions for the activities of airline companies and change the existing legislation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Holding consultations and leading negotiations with airline companies, making amendments to legal acts.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Expansion of the geography of flights and expansion of the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia; ensuring conditions for healthy competition; enhancement of other infrastructures; growth of air transport and passenger flow, which will help to improve the indicators of organisations carrying out aviation activities in the Republic of Armenia, as well as promote economic activity.</p>
67	<p>Liberalising the aviation market with all member states of the European Union</p> <p>67.1. Organising of the process of signing the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and EU member states</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p>

	<p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the goals of the draft on the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and European Union member states, particularly to establish a Common Aviation Area (CAA), by ensuring access to the markets of the Parties with equal competitive conditions, without discrimination and under unified rules, including in the sectors of flight and aviation safety, organising of air traffic, competition, society and environment, to expand air communication and enhance the international aviation system taking as a basis the non-discriminatory, transparent and fair competition between airline companies in the market.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>What especially affected, though temporarily, the civil aviation sector were modern challenges such as the restrictions in the civil aviation sector that were due to COVID-19, (requirements for vaccinations and testing), the consequences of the unleashed war and the inclusion of Armenia in the EU Air Safety List. Before full implementation of the Open Air Policy with the European Union, we deem it necessary to take steps and solve the issue of being removed from the EU Air Safety List, as the participation of Armenia in the free air market may be ineffective without that.</p> <p>In regard to the requirement to have an aircraft type certificate issued by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency in accordance with the EU legislation provided for by point 7 of Annex No 1 to the draft Agreement, the period of implementation of which is prescribed until 1 January 2023, the Civil Aviation Committee of the Republic of Armenia expresses its concern with regard to the requirement ONLY to operate aircrafts accredited by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), as there might be situations where, proceeding from the security interests of the State, aircrafts may be accessible which have not been granted the aircraft type certificate issued by the EASA, but in reality may be more beneficial for Armenia in terms of obtaining or operating them (for instance, Russian-Chinese planes have begun to be manufactured in the People's Republic of China, which may be beneficial for the Republic of Armenia).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementation of activities aimed at signing of the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and EU member states.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Signing of the Common Aviation Area Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union and EU member states, creation of a common aviation area with EU member states, expansion of the geography of air communications, as well as development of the international aviation system.</p>
68	<p>Raising the level of flight and aviation safety, by bringing it into compliance with the standards of international aviation organisations</p> <p>68.1 Elaborating and submitting the Draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On aviation””</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On aviation””</p>

(hereinafter referred to as “the Draft”) is conditioned by the need to ensure compliance of a number of provisions of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On aviation” (hereinafter referred to as “the Law”) with the international agreements of the Republic of Armenia and the international standards published by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the recommended practices and procedures and the latest amendments made to the mentioned documents as much as possible, as well as to regulate a number of other procedural provisions in the field.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

By Law HO-101-N of 19 June 2015 “On making an amendment to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Aviation”” (hereinafter referred to as “Law HO-101-N”), the authorised public administration bodies in the field of aviation were distinguished as bodies developing, implementing the sector-specific policy and authorised bodies for flight and aviation safety, technical regulation, as well as an authorised body for conducting professional state investigation into aviation accidents and serious incidents in the Republic of Armenia.

After the adoption of Law HO-101-N, changes were made in the documents released by the ICAO which are subject to mandatory enforcement by member states. In particular, according to the new 13th edition of the “Safety” document No. 17 of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation and Doc. 30 “Safety Mechanisms” of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), relevant changes were made in the field of aviation safety, as well as in Annex No 13 “Aircraft Incident and Incident Investigation” to the Chicago Convention, defined new criteria which provide for mandatory compliance of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia with the mentioned requirements and criteria.

At the same time, the Law does not specifically regulate the relations pertaining to general aviation, the requirement set for the person bearing a certificate of aircraft operator with respect to national belonging, gives no opportunity for full effective control by the authorised body over the aircraft operators.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On aviation” will be fully revised, making it fall in line with international criteria, as well as the recommendations submitted within the scope of the assessment visit of the EASA.

The scope and powers for regulation of the sector by the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure will be specified.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Bringing the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Aviation” into compliance with the latest changes of the standards of international aviation organisations and the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

68.2. Specifying the powers of the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure to adopt regulatory legal acts arising from the Law “On Aviation”

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for specifying the powers of the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure to adopt secondary

regulatory legal acts arising from the Law “On Aviation” is conditioned by the need for proper implementation of power for normative regulation during performance of the powers reserved for the Committee by the Law “On Aviation”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

After the amendment to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia of 2015, by the Law “On public administration bodies”, the General Department of Civil Aviation adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the General Department”) shall act as a state body subject to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia — Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) and shall be the legal successor of the General Department.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and the Laws “On regulatory legal acts” and “On aviation”, the Committee shall be entitled to adopt secondary regulatory legal acts reserved for the scope of its powers and arising from the Law.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

According to the position of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, the Committee, as a state body subject to the Ministry, was unable to adopt regulatory legal acts between 2018 and October 2020. As a result of legislative amendment, proper implementation of the function will be ensured through the adoption of an authorising norm.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

By specifying the power of the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure to adopt secondary regulatory legal acts arising from the Law “On Aviation”, grounds will be created for the Committee to adopt regulatory legal acts in the field of normative regulation of the field of civil aviation.

68.3. Identifying the main reasons for shortcomings and inconsistencies associated with flight and aviation safety, developing a plan for correctional actions and co-ordinating their proper implementation

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

To eliminate the shortcomings related to flight and aviation safety it is necessary to clearly present the root cause statement, present the relevant correctional actions, indicating the data of the responsible persons and the deadlines. Proper and timely implementation of each correctional action will lead to elimination of the shortcomings and inconsistencies related to flight and aviation safety.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Providing the specialists of the Committee with relevant qualifications lies at the core of elimination of the shortcomings associated with flight and aviation safety, which requires the availability of sufficient resources. The State needs to provide aviation specialists with initial and proper preparedness and training in order to maintain the qualifications of the specialists and raise them to a desired level.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

To fully eliminate the inconsistencies associated with flight and aviation safety and minimise the risks posing a threat to flight safety, it is necessary to ensure sufficient financial resources, which will enable to receive relevant training.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

After analysing the main reasons for the shortcomings and inconsistencies recorded in the aviation sector and completing the correctional actions, it will be possible to minimise the risks posing a threat to flight and aviation safety.

68.4. Introducing electronic systems, as well as digitising the current informative analytical databases.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Introduction of electronic systems, as well as digitisation of the existing information and analysis databases.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the applied analytical data are gathered and processed manually, which entails ineffective use of human resources and a low level of control.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Applying the electronic (automated) system and digitisation of analytical data bases serves as a modern means that ensures increase of quality and effectiveness of the work, as well as reduces the factor of human intervention to a minimum.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The application of the electronic (automated) systems and digital technologies will contribute to the supervision of the precise analytical information, ensuring a high level assessment of relevant risks, as well as will optimise the effective management of human resources.

68.5. Increasing qualifications of the specialists of the Committee through theoretical and practical courses

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the actions is conditioned by the fact that in order to have civil aviation that meets international standards and is safe and advanced, it is necessary to prepare qualified personnel. The requirement is defined under the following documents:

1. According to the requirements in sub-point 4.1 of point 4 ("Qualified Technical Personnel") of Appendix 1 of Annex 19 (Flight Safety Management) to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), "the State shall define the minimal requirements

	<p>for qualification of the personnel implementing activities in the area of flight safety and provide for proper initial preparation and training in order to maintain their qualifications and raise them to the desired level.”</p> <p>2. According to the requirements in point 3.3.2 of the ICAO Doc 9734, “To fulfil its duties effectively, the State’s Safety Oversight System needs to properly organise replenishment of qualified personnel which will be capable of implementing a wide scope of technical duties with regard to ensuring of flight safety.”</p> <p>The aim is to have qualified personnel which meets international requirements which will properly perform and ensure the functions reserved for them to ensure flight and aviation safety of civil aviation, contributing to flight safety and the development of civil aviation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure receives small funding from the Ministry of Finance to meet the needs of the technical personnel for training, and this is why it is impossible to ensure the necessary training courses required for the technical personnel.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Sufficient provision of financial resources which will enable to properly and fully conduct training courses and have well-qualified personnel meeting international requirements.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>To have a well-qualified technical personnel meeting international requirements which will fully undergo the required training courses, will have theoretical and practical knowledge to perform the functions at a high level, properly ensuring aviation and flight safety of civil aviation.</p>
69	<p>Safe development of general aviation</p> <p>69.1. Adopting a new procedure for operation of unmanned aircraft systems, creating digital platforms for the necessary teaching and training and introducing necessary electronic systems to ensure the supervision over this field.</p> <p>69.2. Adopting new procedures for operation of runways and helicopter platforms</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for legal regulation for operation of runways, helicopter platforms and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), as well as for creating digital platforms for the necessary teaching and training and introducing necessary electronic systems to ensure the supervision over this, emerged due to the increase of the number of runways, helicopter platforms and unmanned aircraft systems and the sharp growth of the number of small private aviation flights.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are no regulatory legal regulations in the sense of bringing the built and actually operating runways, helicopter platforms, as well as UASs</p>

	<p>into compliance with international aviation standards. With respect to the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, there is currently no legal regulation.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Activities are being carried out in this direction in order to regulate those activities at international aviation organisations, as well as develop relevant standards and recommended practices. International standards and recommended practices regarding the operation of unmanned aircraft systems have already been defined in several Annexes of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Armenia must incorporate these into its national legislation and ensure their implementation. Currently, serious obstacles for direct oversight over flights of UASs are emerging alongside the rise in their number.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the actions will contribute to the development of unmanned aircraft systems and will regulate their safe operation. The development of maps and the establishment of admissible flight zones will ensure the safe use of the airspace. It will contribute to the development of general aviation and will regulate the safe operation of runways and helicopter platforms. Interest in making potential investments and developing general aviation will spark among investors after the development and implementation of procedures for runways and helicopter platforms.</p>
70	<p>Establishing a regional and competitive aviation education centre in line with international standards</p> <p>70.1. To study aviation education centres accredited by international organisations and lead negotiations with the leaderships of selected international aviation education centres and consider the establishment of a regional and competitive aviation education centre in line with international standards.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is conditioned by modernisation of the field regulating the civil aviation sector in the Republic of Armenia, as well as bringing the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the standards of international organisations and the recommended practice.</p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need for study of the aviation education centres accredited by international organisations, which will enable to apply the existing practice.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>To establish a legal framework regulating the sector and meeting the modern standards. The drafts for amendment to the annexes to Order No 188-N ARM-AIR OPS and Order No 181-N ARM-AIR CREW of the Head of the General Department of Civil Aviation of 20 October 2010. The relevant subdivisions of the Committee are developing an amendment to draft Order of the Head of the General Department of Civil Aviation No 79-N of 14 May.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing activities for revision of the field regulating the sector, leading consultations and negotiations with partnering states and aviation education</p>

	<p>centres, sufficiently providing financial resources, as a result of which it will be possible to implement the process properly and completely.</p> <p>The consultations and negotiations will help to find possible solutions to the existing issues.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result, the requirements for organisations established for education and training of aviation specialists will be brought into compliance with international standards, which will contribute to the modernisation of the aviation educational complexes operating in the Republic of Armenia and competitiveness in the region, and may also serve as an impetus for investments in the area of establishments preparing aviation specialists.</p> <p>Action: The study will enable to consider the appropriateness for investments.</p> <p>70.2. Revising the legal framework regulating the accreditation of aviation education centres in line with international standards</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Objective: The objective of implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need for modernisation of the legal framework regulating the accreditation of aviation education centres, as well as compliance of the legislative requirements of the Republic of Armenia with the standards of international organisations and the recommended practice.</p> <p>Action: Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to study the process of accreditation of the Aviation Education Centres of international organisations, which will provide the opportunity to apply the existing practice.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>To establish a procedure regulating the sector and meeting modern standards; providing sufficient financial resources, as a result of which it will be possible to implement the process properly and completely.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing activities for review of the field regulating the sector, leading consultations and negotiations with partnering states and aviation education centres.</p> <p>Consultations and negotiations will enable to find possible solutions to the existing issues.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>To establish and apply the process of Accreditation of Modern Aviation Education Centres; Study the international practice as much as possible.</p>
71	<p>Creating a favourable environment and conditions for legislative amendments for the establishment of new local airline companies</p> <p>71.1. Purpose legislative amendments and create favourable environment and conditions for the operation of airline companies, as well as for</p>

the establishment and development of new local airline companies

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the actions

The necessity for implementation of the actions is conditioned by need for modernisation of the legal-contractual framework regulating the civil aviation sector in the Republic of Armenia, review of the procedure for issuance of a certificate of aircraft operator issued by the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, expansion of geography of flights for the purpose of creating new opportunities for local airline companies and engaging new airline companies in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure has carried out and is carrying out consistent activities for review of existing intergovernmental treaties and conclusion of new treaties, and the process of review of legal acts regulating the sector has already been launched. The Committee is continuously leading negotiations with airline companies in order to engage the latter in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Implementing activities for review of the legal-contractual field regulating the sector, leading consultations and negotiations with partnering states and airline companies.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Modernising the legal acts regulating the sector of civil aviation, fully bringing the sector of civil aviation into compliance with the international requirements, expanding the geography for carrying out flights by creating new opportunities for local airline companies and engaging new airline companies in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia.

71.2 Reviewing the existing legal acts by bringing them into compliance with the ICAO standards and the recommended practices

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the review and modernisation of the legal-contractual field regulating the sector of civil aviation of the Republic of Armenia, including the legal act establishing the procedure for issuance of a certificate of operator of an air plane that is issued by the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, by bringing into compliance with the ICAO standards and the recommended practices.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure has carried out and is carrying out consistent activities for review of the existing legal-contractual field.

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing activities for review of the legal-contractual field regulating the sector, making amendments and supplements to legal acts.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Fully bringing the procedure for issuance of a certificate of operator of an air plane into compliance with the existing international standards.</p>
72	<p>Improving the quality of services for passengers, in accordance with the international requirements</p> <p>1. The necessity for (purpose of) adoption of the legal act</p> <p>Adoption of the specified Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will provide the opportunity to specify the principles of the policy being led by the Republic of Armenia in the sector of civil aviation and will ensure compliance of those principles with the criteria established under Annex No 9 "Simplification of Procedures" to the Chicago Convention on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention").</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Decision No 249 "On approving the National Action Plan for Simplification of Procedures related to Air Transportation" was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on 16 March 2002; it complied with the standards established by the ICAO, but new criteria regarding the arrival and departure of airplanes; the availability of services and technical resources necessary for providing services for airplanes and passengers,</p> <p>border, customs, healthcare, sanitary-quarantine controls for passengers and cargo at airports; the formulations of certificates of personnel of airplanes and documents of passengers; the blanks of passenger manifests of passengers being transported and the cargo manifests of cargo accepted for transport; the blanks of the main declarations of members of the personnel of an airplane; the existence of ill patients aboard, the requirements for actions for disinfection and disinsection of airplanes were established in the 15th edition of Annex No 9 ("Simplification of Procedures") in 2017.</p> <p>The procedures for providing services to passengers at airports of the Republic of Armenia through implementation of the mentioned amendments and supplements will be brought into compliance with the new criteria established by the ICAO.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision will provide the opportunity to meet the criteria newly adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and further raise the required level of activities for providing services to passengers at airports of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision will clearly enshrine the procedures that are implemented during all the stages of service for passengers and, through practical implementation of those procedures, the draft Decision will facilitate the processes associated with services for passengers during air transportation, bringing them into compliance with the current procedures that are in effect in member states of the ICAO. Adoption of the mentioned amendments and supplements will provide the opportunity to regulate the activities for providing services to passengers at the airports of the Republic of</p>

	Armenia in all Stages, bringing them into compliance with the criteria of the ICAO.
73	<p>Enhancing transport infrastructures (express, metro or highway) linking Yerevan to Zvartnots Airport</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the Action</p> <p>The newly built road will provide the opportunity to reach the airport and reach the capital from the airport efficiently, and this will contribute to the development of tourism and the growth of air transportation. The alternative road will also ensure the rapid movement of Rescue Forces and resources to the airport in case of emergency situations.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the Airport is linked to the capital only through one road, and the absence of an alternative road impedes the growth of air transportation, as the release of one (especially active) road also cannot ensure the requirements for development of aviation, according to the opinions of specialists of international organisations. This is also pivotal in case of emergency situations.</p> <p>Thus, the Government, jointly with a number of state departments, needs to develop a common vision for development of civil aviation and commercial and general aviation (business, educational, personal, agricultural, construction and other special services) in the country.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>There may be several recommended solutions, including the construction of a new road, the construction of an additional metro station or the construction of an expressway. The construction of a new metro station may help to increase the number of passengers using the metropolitan route, which may be twice as beneficial for the country.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The expected outcome is to provide tourists and passengers in Armenia with the opportunity to reach the airport, be exempt from traffic jams on the road linking the capital to the airport, and, as a result of this, be convinced that, in line with the growth of the number of air transportation, it will be possible to ensure capacity of roads leading to the capital. The initiative will provide the opportunity to increase the number of companies carrying out activities and/or flights in Armenia, which will link the country to countries with developed industry and tourism through new possible roads, as well as to the Armenian communities in different countries around the world. The initiative will indirectly increase the demand of qualified specialists as well.</p>
74	<p>The Government will, with participation of the “Armenia” International Airports CJSC and the Civil Aviation Committee, hold negotiations with the leading airline companies of the world to carry out air transportation to Armenia and from Armenia. At the same time, we will hold negotiations with Armenian airline companies to create a favourable environment and conditions for their activities, as well as to increase competitiveness.</p> <p>74.1 Carry out works for restoring the volumes of air transportation by using mechanisms for reducing the expenses of airline companies (including complete elimination of air duty). Reach an agreement with “Armenia” International Airports CJSC for the purpose of carrying out</p>

works for ensuring direct flights to the United States of America and obtaining relevant permits.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the expansion of the geography of flights, the creation of new opportunities for local airline companies and the engagement of new airline companies in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia, which will contribute to the multifaceted development of the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia and the establishment of healthy competition, as well as the development of the economy and infrastructures.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure is continuously holding negotiations with airline companies for the purpose of engaging the latter in the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia and is carrying out activities to create favourable conditions for the operation of airline companies. Pursuant to Article 20 of Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-186 of 27 December 1997 "On state duty", state duty shall be levied in the amount of ten-fold of the base duty for exit of natural persons (air passengers) from the Republic of Armenia by air transport.

The privileges regarding the aforementioned provision of the Law are prescribed by Article 29 of the Law. The aforementioned Article 29 was supplemented with a new paragraph upon Decision N 1936-N of 28 December 2019, granting a privilege to companies carrying out air transportation with new directions, irrespective of the country of registration of the airline company concerned.

Taking into consideration the fact that the Government of the Republic of Armenia has declared the development of tourism as one of the overriding directions, the Civil Aviation Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure attaches importance to the issue of the duty that is levied for exit of air passengers, and anticipates that the privilege will apply to all air passengers (or the levying of air duty needs to be eliminated).

Currently, direct flights to the United States of America are not carried out from "Zvartnots" Airport, as the latter does not meet the current necessary standards in the United States of America.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Holding consultations and negotiations with airline companies, making amendments to legal acts, as well as holding discussions and making amendments to the Law "On state duty".

Support "Armenia" International Airports CJSC for the purpose of carrying out activities to ensure direct flights to the United States of America and obtaining relevant permits.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Expanding the geography for carrying out flights and the aviation market of the Republic of Armenia, approving conditions for healthy competition, enhancing other infrastructures, increasing the number of air transportations and flow of passengers, which will contribute to improvement of the indicators

	<p>of the organisations carrying out aviation activities in the Republic of Armenia, as well as to promotion of economic activity.</p> <p>Obtain permits for carrying out direct flights to the United States of America.</p>
75	<p>The Government will take measures to strengthen the institutional capacities of the body authorised for conducting state professional investigation into aviation accidents and serious incidents, which will carry out professional investigation into accidents and serious incidents in accordance with the international standards and will be independent of the Civil Aviation Committee</p> <p>Having an authorised body independent of the Civil Aviation Committee is defined by a number of international agreements and ensures analysis of the current trends in flight safety and provision of relevant information to those carrying out aviation activities in order to prevent future accidents, as well as excludes conflict of interests during professional investigation into aviation accidents and serious incidents and within the scope of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA).</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action arises from the obligations assumed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia before the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The objective is to bring it into compliance with the standards of Article 13 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation and the requirements of Article 54 of Chapter 10 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On aviation".</p> <p>The authorised body independent of the Civil Aviation Committee ensures analysis of the current trends in flight safety and provision of relevant information to those carrying out aviation activities in order to prevent future accidents, as well as excludes conflict of interests during professional investigation into aviation accidents and serious incidents.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the institutional capacities of the authorised body for conducting investigation into accidents and serious incidents in the Republic of Armenia are not sufficient for conducting investigation into aviation accidents and serious incidents properly.</p> <p>Despite the fact that the necessity of having an authorised body for conducting professional state investigation into aviation accidents and serious incidents is enshrined by law, at this moment, the authorised body lacks the institutional capacities to be able to conduct investigation under international standards and the requirements defined by the Chicago Convention.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establish that body within the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, replenish it with quality specialists with relevant qualification who will have the opportunity to submit proposals to the government to make amendments to the "Procedure for conducting investigation into aviation accidents and incidents in the Republic of Armenia, classifying and record-registering them" having entered into force upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1777 of 11 December 2003. Write new procedures in accordance with the standards of the ICAO.</p> <p>It is necessary to increase productivity of the structure, replenish, if necessary, with qualified specialists, as a result of which it will be possible to specify the</p>

	<p>duties and rights of the authorised body, and achieve full implementation of the working duties of the structure.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Bringing the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia into compliance with the standards in Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia will have a structure that will conduct professional investigation into accidents and serious incidents in accordance with international standards and will be independent of the Civil Aviation Committee.</p>
76	<p>76.1. Carry out continuous works with the Concessionaire of the airport for improving the quality of service, reducing tariffs for the services provided and solving other problems</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>To increase the amounts of passenger flows, it is necessary to carry out continuous works with the Concessionaire for improving the quality of service, reducing tariffs for the services provided and solving other problems.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, various types of meetings and discussions are held with the Concessionaire, engaging representatives of other government agencies, upon necessity. Most of the problems are solved through a working procedure.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Carry out continuous works with the Concessionaire, and, upon necessity, recommend that the Government of the Republic of Armenia make certain amendments to the concession agreement concluded.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Make the airport more attractive and accessible for airline companies and travel agencies. In this case, it is expected that the volumes of passenger flows will be increased.</p>
77	<p>Solving the problems existing in the sector of water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment), continuously improving the quality of services provided to consumers and meeting the needs of consumers</p> <p>77.1. Carrying out works for securing the rights and obligations of the lessor and lessee provided for by the lease agreement existing within the scope of public-private partnership in the sector of water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment)</p> <p>77.11. Carrying out works for restoration of water supply and water drainage systems in 11 cities of 6 marzes and 41 rural communities of the Republic of Armenia, including in the cities of Gyumri, Vanadzor and Armavir</p>

<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — and Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan" and the 2018-2030 Strategy and Financing Plan for the Sector of Water Supply and Water Drainage", the existing lease agreement, carry out works for securing the obligations of the lessor — Water Committee — and the lessee — "Veolia Djur" CJSC — provided for by the lease agreement.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the functions of the lessor and the lessee prescribed by the lease agreement (5th year of the Agreement) are being performed.</p> <p>Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into consideration the fact that the validity period of the lease agreement is prescribed until 2031 included, it is necessary to ensure all requirements provided for by the lease agreement in the future, as well including the key performance and internal comparative indicators of the lessee.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Providing services for reliable, sustainable and safe water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) in settlements being serviced by the lessee.</p>	<p>77.2. Implementing reforms (including institutional) aimed at managing the process of providing services of water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) in settlements not serviced by the lessee, including it in the function of the authorised state body</p> <p>77.3. Implementing subvention programmes aimed at the development of the sector of water supply and water drainage in settlements not serviced by the lessee for ensuring proper level of services</p> <p>77.4. Issuing a licence, under the procedure established, to "Armenian Water and Sewerage" CJSC for provision of water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) services and creating conditions necessary for resumption of activities in this field</p> <p>77.12. Carrying out works for improving the water supply and water drainage systems in 4 villages not serviced by the lessee and ensuring of operation of the systems</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.4 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — and Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and the "2018-2030 Strategy and Financing Plan for the Sector of Water Supply and Water Drainage", implement reforms (including institutional) for improving management of the process of providing water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) services in settlements not serviced by "Veolia Djur" CJSC.</p>
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1.2.Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) systems are in technically poor condition or are missing in a number of settlements not serviced by the lessee.

1.2.Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In the settlements not serviced by the lessee it is necessary to introduce effective management of water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) systems in order to transfer the systems, as prescribed, to a licensed specialised organisation (organisations), including "Armenian Water and Sewerage" CJSC.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Providing services for reliable, sustainable and safe water supply and water drainage (wastewater treatment) in settlements not being serviced by "Veolia Djur" CJSC.

77.5.Establishing an active mechanism for conducting permanent monitoring of the quality of drinking water in the settlements of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of bringing the quality of water into compliance with the sanitary rules and norms approved by the authorised state body**1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action**

Taking as a basis part 4 of Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and the "2018-2030 Strategy and Financing Plan for the Sector of Water Supply and Water Drainage", as well as the relevant requirements of the lease agreement, it is necessary to introduce active mechanisms for monitoring of the quality of drinking water in the settlements of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the mechanisms for monitoring the quality of water in certain settlements of the Republic of Armenia are not effective.

1.2.Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Establish active mechanisms for monitoring the quality of drinking water in all settlements.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Ensure compliance of the quality of drinking water in all settlements of the Republic of Armenia with the current requirements for the quality of water approved by the authorised state body — sanitary rules and norms.

77.6.Ensuring termination of the international agreement on the contract for construction of the new "Aeratsia" wastewater treatment plants (WTP), operating the station after formation of the property and transferring it for exploitation, implementing preparatory activities for the

future stages of reconstruction of the WTP

77.7. Carrying out works for ensuring complete treatment of the wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment plants operating in 3 urban settlements of the basin of Lake Sevan, seweraging the rural settlements of the region and installing local wastewater treatment plants and equipment by the economic entities operating in the area

77.8. Creating a system for monitoring the quality of the treated wastewater flowing from the existing wastewater treatment plants deemed to be state ownership

77.9. Establishing specialised structures for installing and servicing of local wastewater treatment plants in facilities of economic entities not connected to the sewerage network

77.10. Developing the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On the concept paper on development of the field for disposal of wastewater" and submitting it to the Government of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

1.1 Taking as a basis Section 3.4 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — and points 11 and 12 of Article 16 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia", it is necessary to carry out activities for ensuring the launch and operation of the new "Aeratsia" wastewater treatment plant as prescribed, as well as for complete treatment of the wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment plants operating in the basin of Lake Sevan, seweraging rural settlements and installing local wastewater treatment plants and equipment by the economic entities operating in the area.

1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, construction of the Aeratsia automatic treatment plant of Yerevan is over. It is necessary to ensure operation of the treatment plant and carry out the activities of the 2nd stage. It is also necessary to carry out activities for gathering and completely treating wastewater discharged to Lake Sevan.

1.3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Complete treatment of wastewater at operating WTPs and installation of local wastewater treatment plants and equipment by economic entities of the basin of Lake Sevan.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Resolving a number of environmental issues.

77.13. Carrying out activities for improving the water supply systems in the city of Yerevan

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

	<p>Taking as a basis part 15 of Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and the "2018-2030 Strategy and Financing Plan for the Sector of Water Supply and Water Drainage", as well as the relevant requirements of the lease agreement, it is necessary to introduce active mechanisms for monitoring of the quality of drinking water in the settlements of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the distribution networks for water supply in a number of administrative districts of the city of Yerevan are technically worn out and there is a need for investments.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Reliable, sustainable and safe water supply for subscribers in the city of Yerevan will be ensured through the implementation of relevant investment programmes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improving the quality and ensuring reliability of water supply services in the city of Yerevan.</p>
78	<p>It is envisaged to implement necessary legislative and structural reforms for the purpose of solving the problems existing in the irrigation sector and improving the situation</p> <p>78.1. Developing and implementing the "Strategic Programme for Effective Management of Irrigation Systems"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", as well as the 2020-2050 Strategy for Transformation of the Republic of Armenia, it is necessary to implement legislative and institutional reforms in the irrigation sector.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, a need has emerged to regulate the legal relations for water use between "Jrar" CJSC-WUA, improve the management of the irrigation system and make a change in the selection of the executive body of WOAs.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For institutional strengthening of WUAs, it is necessary to develop a concept paper on development in the irrigation sector, make structural reforms, draw up plans for improvement of management, develop and implement specific action plans. It is envisaged to include in the Plan the paths for solutions to prospective problems with meeting the demand for irrigation water in conditions of possible negative balance of water resources, the paths for increasing effectiveness of use, increase of irrigable lands, implementation of programmes for implementation of mid-term and long-term actions in phases, develop</p>

	<p>and introduce flexible mechanisms for measuring flows, long-range management, submission of application and collection of funds, etc.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Improvement of the quality of services provided and increase of effectiveness, accountability and transparency of activities, management of the quantity of water required for supplying water for irrigable lands included in the area of service for irrigation systems and additional irrigable lands. At the same time, the solution to the mentioned problem will help to create preconditions for increase of effectiveness of water resources and sustainable development</p>
79	<p>Continuously furnish the irrigation systems with modern water metering equipment and equip with a data collection and control system</p> <p>79.1. Assessing technical condition of the hydro-technical structures and increasing controllability</p> <p>79.2. Introducing an electronic platform for the purpose of implementing complex and interconnected technical, economic, organisational, financial and legal actions</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — and Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan", for the purpose of conducting specific record-registration of irrigation water supplied, as well as improving the technical condition of automatic water production equipment and rearming with modern management systems, in the systems for supply of irrigation water it is necessary to assess the technical condition of automatic water production equipment, bring the intake points and the separating nodes of the intra-household network from the main water pipelines to a proper condition, by bringing to order and equipping them with modern water metering devices.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>With the support of the World Bank, 83 SCADA water meters have been installed at water distribution nodal points of irrigation systems, which allow to obtain data on water supply in those systems promptly, including on-line.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Thanks to the specific record-registration system introduced in the irrigation sector, it will be possible to increase effectiveness of the irrigation process, raise the level of control over the indicator of losses, respond to the elimination of accidents within the system more promptly, implement more optimal distribution of irrigation water; as a result of obtaining information about electricity expenses on-line, it will be possible to significantly reduce the various types of risks, which will also lead to reduction of expenses for servicing and other current expenses, an opportunity will be created to apply the on-line systems of record-registration of irrigation water and electricity expenses in the GIS water management programme, the data obtained from which will be used in the reports available in the programme, the process of automatic water production will become more controllable and more organised thanks to the analyses drawn up based on the information regarding electricity expenses.</p>

	<p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increasing the volumes of irrigation water being record-registered and proceeds, increasing the percentage of charge, minimising subsidy, increasing controllability of WUAs, reducing corruption risks, ensuring financial stability within companies of water users, increasing trust in the latter and improving supply of irrigation water.</p>
80	<p>Assessment of the technical condition of the terms for operation in irrigation systems</p> <p>80.1 Carry out comprehensive technical audit and, based on the results of the audit, develop and implement approaches to and criteria of capital investments</p> <p>80.2. Carry out capital investments and investment policy for restoration of irrigation systems</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", which prescribes the directions for ensuring access to water resources, and Article 29 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia", a need has emerged for assessment of the technical condition of the terms for operation in irrigation systems.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, in the main, inter-household and intra-household canals in the irrigation systems, there are accident-prone sections, nearly 46.9% losses of irrigation water and nearly 113 thousand hectares of lands that are not irrigated. In the system there are also automatic water supply sub-systems which can be appropriately modernised or, if possible, substituted with gravity flow.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to conduct technical audit in order to assess the technical condition of the terms for operation in irrigation systems.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The actions for increasing reliability and effectiveness of the operation of irrigation systems will ensure restoration of the irrigation systems, reduction of losses and long-term maintenance of the irrigation systems in the future. At the same time, the construction and renovation of gravity systems, irrigation canals and water pipelines will create the opportunity to implement a policy on reduction of the cost price.</p>
81	<p>Plan for development of irrigation systems</p> <p>81.1 Implementing the improvement of irrigation systems — reconstruction of inter-household and intra-household irrigation networks</p> <p>It is envisaged to complete the activities for reconstruction of inter-household and intra-household irrigation networks before 2023. Construction</p>

	<p>of irrigation systems will help to economise 7.3 mln kWt/50h electricity, irrigable lands will be increased by 1373 hectares.</p> <p>Intra-household systems with a length of nearly 259,1 km will be restored in 105 settlements of five marzes. The extremely decayed and accident-prone sections of 4 main canals with a length of 8,2 km and 22 second-class canals with a length of 54,1 km will be restored. This will help to expand availability of provision of irrigation water, the losses in the sections to be restored will be gradually reduced by nearly 7%, and sustainable, uninterrupted water supply will be carried out in those plots of land</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by the reliability of operation of the systems for supply of irrigation water and increase of effectiveness of operation. Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — and Article 29 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia", which prescribes the directions for ensuring access to water resources, serve as a basis for implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are accident-prone sections in the main, inter-household and intra-household canals of irrigation systems. In the system there are also automatic water supply sub-systems which can be appropriately modernised or, if possible, substituted with gravity flow, which will lead to reduction of electricity being spent and the tariff to be established.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to carry out activities for repair and restoration to make the system uninterrupted and reliable, increasing, simultaneously, the irrigable lands under the system and the volumes of water supplied.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The actions for increasing reliability and effectiveness of the operation of irrigation systems will ensure restoration of the irrigation systems, reduction of losses and long-term maintenance of the irrigation systems in the future. At the same time, the construction and renovation of gravity systems, irrigation canals and water pipelines will create the opportunity to implement a policy on reduction of the cost price.</p>
82	<p>Preparing and implementing Programmes for Construction of Reservoirs (the Kaps and Vedi reservoirs) during 2021-2026</p> <p>82.1 Phase 1 of "Akhuryan River Integrated Water Resources Management Programme"; Constructing the Kaps reservoir</p> <p>82.2. Phase 2 of "Akhuryan River Integrated Water Resources Management Programme"; Constructing a gravity irrigation system</p> <p>82.3. Carrying out construction of the bulwark and auxiliary structures of Vedi reservoir, the system for transferring water and irrigation. End of detailed planned activities for the intra-household irrigation network under the Vedi reservoir</p>

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for implementation of the Action is conditioned by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 33-18 approved on 25 August 2016, the components of which are also targeted at construction of new reservoirs, modernisation of existing infrastructures, advancement of institutional reforms, as well as introduction of a new level of transparent relations with water users. Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" — and Article 29 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia", which prescribes the directions for ensuring access to water resources, serve as a basis for implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Due to the absence of management of the regime of superficial water streams formed in the regions that fall under the Kaps and Vedi reservoirs, nearly 60-70 mln cubic metres of water are not used in the economy of the Republic of Armenia per year, particularly in the irrigation sector.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Through construction of the Kaps, Vedi reservoirs, it is envisaged to improve supply of water to lands under the reservoirs, add new plots of land, nearly 20-25 mln kw/h electricity will be economised for the system as a result of substituting automatic water production with gravity flow.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Construction of reservoirs will create an opportunity to ensure management of the quantity of water required for supply of additional water for irrigable lands included in the area of service for irrigation systems. At the same time, the solution to the mentioned problem will help to create preconditions for increase of effectiveness of water resources and sustainable development.</p> <p>Construction/restoration of reservoirs and improvement of the irrigation system will also contribute to the improvement of public infrastructure and the key functions of the public sphere, which will be an effective measure for implementation of the strategic programme for overcoming poverty, creating jobs by increasing agricultural production.</p>
83	<p>Creating opportunities for ensuring the quantity of water required for supply of water to irrigable lands included in the area of service of irrigation systems and additional irrigable lands, design and construction of gravity systems and new reservoirs</p> <p>83.1. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Argichi Reservoir in Gegharkunik Marz</p> <p>83.2. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Astghadzor Reservoir in Gegharkunik Marz</p> <p>83.3. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Yelpin Reservoir in Vayots Dzor Marz</p> <p>83.4. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Khndzorut Reservoir in Vayots Dzor Marz</p>

- 83.5. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Vernashen Reservoir in Vayots Dzor Marz**
- 83.6. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Khachik Reservoir in Vayots Dzor Marz**
- 83.7. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of the reservoir of Getik Monastery in Vayots Dzor Marz**
- 83.8. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Zirak Reservoir in Vayots Dzor Marz**
- 83.9. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Kasakh Reservoir in Armavir Marz**
- 83.10. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Selav-Mastara Reservoir in Armavir Marz**
- 83.11. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Hakhum-2 Reservoir in Tavush Marz**
- 83.12. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Koghb Reservoir in Tavush Marz**
- 83.13. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Artik Reservoir in Shirak Marz**
- 83.14. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Khndzoresk Reservoir in Syunik Marz**
- 83.15. Drawing up design documents for construction and construction of Litchk (Meghri) Reservoir in Syunik Marz**
- 83.16. Construction of irrigation water pipeline from reservoir of Kaps to main canal of Talin**
- 83.17. Construction of gravity system starting from reservoir of Her-Her**
- 83.18. Construction of a gravity system starting from reservoir of Geghardalitch**
- 83.19. Construction, reconstruction of 31 daily regulating pools and implementation of preparatory activities**
- 83.20. Studying the technical and economic rationale of construction of Garnahovit reservoir in Aragatsotn Marz and drawing up design documents**
- 83.21. Studying the technical and economic rationale of construction of a reservoir in Karmir village in Tavush Marz and drawing up design documents**
- 83.22. Studying the technical and economic rationale of construction of Getik reservoir in Lori and drawing up design documents.**

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Currently, it is impossible to effectively manage the superficial waters emerging in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and a need has emerged to store the forming water resources in order to meet the demand for water. Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" and Article 29 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the

	<p>Republic of Armenia”, which prescribe the directions for ensuring access to water resources, serve as a basis for implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Water Committee, jointly with the “ArmWaterProject Institute” CJSC, has considered the opportunities for implementing programmes for construction of small and medium-sized reservoirs in the Republic of Armenia and has set aside reservoirs that should be built first.</p> <p>For implementation of the programme, it is necessary for specialised organisations to conduct more detailed studies, according to specific reservoirs, in order to assess the feasibility of the programmes and proceed as prescribed in the future.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Through construction of reservoirs, it is envisaged to improve the supply of water to irrigable lands, add new lands and ensure saving of electricity for the system after replacing automatic water production with gravity.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Construction of reservoirs will create an opportunity to ensure management of the quantity of water required for supply of additional water for irrigable lands included in the area of service for irrigation systems. At the same time, the solution to the mentioned problem will help to create preconditions for increase of effectiveness of water resources and sustainable development.</p>
84	<p>Ensuring continuation of safe operation of the “Arpa-Sevan” tunnel</p> <p>84.1. Studying the accident-prone sections of the Arpa-Sevan hydrotechnical structure, preparing design-budget documents and implementing construction works</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", Article 15 of Chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 “On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia”, as well as Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 133-N of 16 January 2003, it is necessary to study the accident-prone sections of the Arpa-Sevan tunnel, draw up design-budget documents and implement construction works.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Arpa-Sevan water pipeline consists of 2 tunnels. The water from the reservoir of Kechut is transferred to Yeghegis aqueduct through tunnel No 1, and the water intake structure in Yeghegis river accepts the flow of Yeghegis river. The water brought through tunnel No 1 is led to tunnel No 2, which delivers the water to Lake Sevan. It is envisaged to transfer 270 mln/cubic meters of water through the tunnel, but, due to the technical condition of the “Arpa-Sevan” tunnel, currently, 160-180 mln/cubic meters of water is being transferred to Lake Sevan.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Study of the accident-prone sections of the Arpa-Sevan tunnel and restoration works.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increase of the level of Lake Sevan, ensuring of unobstructed operation of the tunnel.</p>
85	<p>Implementing activities for improvement of the meliorative condition of humid (super humid) agricultural lands</p> <p>85.1 Running and operating a collector-drainage network; implementing activities for determining the levels and quality of groundwater</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 27 November 2006 "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia" and Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia of 20 May 2005 "On melioration of agricultural lands", for the purpose of improving the meliorative condition of irrigable lands of the Republic of Armenia, regulating the levels of ground waters, salinising the soil types, retaining water in settlements and preventing communicable diseases and ensuring the normal growth of plants, starting from the 1950s, nearly 1696.612 km drainage network has been built in the areas of super-humid lands, including 1065.662 km (open) and 630.95 km (closed), and implementation of the Action is conditioned by the purpose of maintenance and exploitation of the network.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are nearly 950 km open collector-drainage systems, and according to the directive, it is necessary to carry out cleaning and renovation works for a period of at least once every 3 years for maintenance and operation of the systems.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>With allocations from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, an opportunity is provided to clean and renovate nearly 218,127 km drainage systems every year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>It is expected to improve the meliorative condition of irrigable lands, maintain the level of ground waters in permissible depths, prevent secondary salinisation and alkalinisation of land types, the spread of communicable diseases and contribute to the increase of the yield of agricultural plants.</p>
86	<p>Conducting preliminary flood risk assessment, drawing up flood hazards and risks maps, drawing up flood risk management plans</p> <p>86.1 Implementing centralised management of the sector by way of creating a database for protecting settlements, areas of economic value and</p>

the property of the population of the Republic of Armenia from the risk of overflows and floods, regulating implementation of priority anti-flood actions and through a management software

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Taking as a basis Directive 91/271/EC of the European Union Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, the actions for development of water strategies and Article 91 of the Water Code of the Republic of Armenia, Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" and part 3 of Article 27 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia", more than half of the territory of the Republic of Armenia is subject to the influence of flood phenomena, the strength of which varies every year. The flood phenomena regularly cause significant harm to various branches of the economy of the Republic of Armenia and even cause the destruction of settlements.

Elimination of the consequences of floods requires capital investments that will be larger than elimination of the causes of floods and, as a result, the prevention of unfavourable consequences. Consequently, first, it is necessary to implement anti-flood preventive measures, the key action of which is deemed to be the creation of a database to protect settlements of the Republic of Armenia, economic areas and the property of the population from overflows and floods and the development of software for management.

By flowing out of the watercourse or changing the natural course, the flood waters cover the coastal agricultural and other lands. Besides, the floods cause large amounts of damage to coastal building and constructions, engineering structures, including bridges, roads, irrigation and drying networks, pump stations, gas pipelines and water supply-sewerage networks. At the same time, there are earthing phenomena that are almost in large amounts. Overall, the mentioned phenomenon is an evil for Armenia, which has scarce lands.

Anti-flood measures need to be implemented every year, by selecting the more dangerous sections of rivers and floodgates.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Between 2020 and 2023, anti-flood measures costing more than AMD 1.1 bln have been implemented, but functions for their maintenance and operation are not being implemented.

The communities that are unable to implement the aforementioned functions due to meagre budgets, especially since the coast guard structures are not reflected in their balances.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is necessary to inventorise the coast guard structures near rivers and floodgates in order to show them in the balance of the Water Committee.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

By concentrating the database on the state of coastal structures within one professional structure, an opportunity will be created to properly organise the

	operation and protection of those structures in order to ensure the longevity of coastal and other hydro-technical structures by making small financial investments.
87	<p>Existence of property in the irrigation systems and assessment of the situation</p> <p>87.1 Conducting inventory and assessment of irrigation systems (canals, reservoirs, deep wells, water pipelines, pump stations, buildings, constructions, mechanisms of machines, other hydro-technical structures, etc.)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Taking as a basis Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", which prescribes the directions for ensuring access to water resources, and Article 16 of Chapter 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia", it is necessary to conduct assessment of the condition of property.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, in the irrigation systems there are companies with 100% state participation and non-profit companies of water users established on a voluntary basis, to which state property is delivered for termless exploitation. There has not been inventory in the irrigation system for nearly 20 years.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to conduct assessment of the availability and condition of property in the irrigation system in the future.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Conducting assessment of the actual condition of property available for making investments.</p>
88	<p>Proper exploitation of existing reservoirs</p> <p>88.1. Activities for restoration and rearmament of reservoirs</p> <p>88.2. Developing a plan for ensuring technical safety of every reservoir</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Section 3.3 "Water Economy" of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 — approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia of 2021 "On approving the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", Article 84 of the Water Code and Article 15 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the National Water Plan of the Republic of Armenia" serve as a ground for implementation of the Action — a need has emerged to assess and restore the technical condition of existing reservoirs, as well as develop a plan for ensuring safety of every reservoir.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the reservoirs existing in the territory of the Republic of Armenia have mainly been built before the 1970s and are technically worn out and are in need of serious capital renovation. The water supply bulwarks, knots and other equipment and structures are in need of capital renovation. As a result of the aforementioned situation, there are many losses of water accumulated in reservoirs, as well as losses of supply through the water supply systems of those reservoirs. The current technical condition of reservoirs causes problems with observance of the safety rules for exploitation.</p> <p>For implementation of the programme, it is necessary for specialised organisations to conduct more detailed studies, according to specific reservoirs, in order to assess the feasibility of the programmes and proceed as prescribed in the future.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of development of programmes, it will be possible to improve water supply for irrigable lands, add new lands, ensure saving of electricity for the system as a result of replacing with gravity flow for automatic water production, as well as ensure safe exploitation of reservoirs.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Safe operation of existing reservoirs and large hydrotechnical structures. Increasing safety of the population and settlements.</p>
89	<p>Digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes</p> <p>89.1 Developing a plan ensuring digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Currently, there is no complete plan that will include the actions, technical solutions and sources of financing for ensuring digitisation of all the systems for management of migration processes. The development of a plan ensuring digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The main goal of the Action is to ensure digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes.</p> <p>1.1. Current state of relations for regulation and the existing issues</p> <p>Currently, most of the systems for management of migration processes are not digitised, and the digitised systems are not mostly combined, creating difficulties from the perspective of management of migration processes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>A relevant plan will be developed for the purpose of digitising management of migration processes. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the Police of the Republic of Armenia, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry</p>

	<p>of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia and the Office for Introduction of Electronic Governance Infrastructures.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The plan ensuring digitisation of systems for management of migration processes is developed.</p> <p>89.2. Implementing Legislative Amendments arising from the plan ensuring digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>For the purpose of ensuring digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes, it is necessary to develop the legal ground for this, that is, the drafts of relevant legal acts predetermining legislative amendments. This also arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to develop the legal ground ensuring digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, most of the systems for management of migration processes are not digitised, and a separate system is operating.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Draft legal acts containing legislative amendments to implement digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes will be developed and will be submitted to the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the Police of the Republic of Armenia, the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia and the Office for Introduction of Electronic Governance Infrastructures.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The legislative amendments arising from the plan ensuring digitisation of the systems for management of migration processes are implemented.</p>
90	<p>Digitisation, simplification and automation of the services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens</p> <p>90.1. Studying the services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens</p> <p>Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Government has set the objective to carry out digitisation of the services provided by the State and communities and modernise the registers of data for services, and to ensure the Interoperability of available digital registers, and the digitisation and compatibility of non-digital registers. The conduct of a study on the services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens in the migration sector is also in line with that context, which will serve as a basis for the digitisation, simplification and automation of those services. The study of services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens also arises from the</p>

	<p>commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to inventorise the services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens, including the digitised services, to conduct analysis and mapping of business processes, predetermine the steps ensuring digitisation, simplification and automation of services.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there is no complete picture showing the degree of digitisation of services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens and the level of Interoperability between the existing data registers.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The degree of digitisation of services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens will be studied, the opportunities for Interoperability between existing data registers will be assessed, the steps for overcoming the detected gaps will be predetermined. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia and the Office for Introduction of Electronic Governance Infrastructures.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The digitised services provided to citizens, including foreign citizens are recorded, the possibilities of digitisation, automation and simplification of non-digitised services and not fully digitised services are revealed.</p>
91	<p>Digitisation and simplification of the system for issuing work permits to foreign citizens and providing them with residency in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>91.1. Launching a unified electronic platform for registration of foreign employees</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Armenia does not have a problem with supplementing the chronic insufficiency of the workforce at the expense of foreigners, but it is in need of control over and regulation of migration flows, especially taking into consideration the peculiarities and geography of the flows of migrants to Armenia.</p> <p>The launch of an electronic governance system for issuing work permits to foreigners and record-registering the employment contracts of foreigners will provide the opportunity to establish control over the labour activities of foreigners located in the Republic of Armenia in order to prevent the violations of periods of their stay in the Republic of Armenia and other violations. At the same time, both the national labour market and the interests of national security will be protected in case of application of the recommended system. Within the scope of the system, security is considered in the domain of complex management of migration flows which concern three aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention of illegal migration;

- ensuring of the system of international protection;
- regulation of labour migration.

It is also very important that the burden of both employers engaging foreign employees and foreign citizens wishing to work in the Republic of Armenia will be eased as a result of the launch of the electronic governance system, that is, digitisation and the facilitation of administration. The introduction of a modern system for issuing work permits and controlling the entry of the foreign workforce into the territory of the Republic of Armenia and into the labour market of the Republic of Armenia is currently an imperative, which conditions the necessity of this electronic governance system. Law HO-217-N of 27 May 2021 “On making amendments and supplements to the Law “On foreigners”” serves as a basis for the creation of the electronic platform. This arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The goals of implementation of the Action are to ensure national security in the sphere of labour activities of foreigners in Armenia, introduce effective mechanisms for the management of new migration flows, fix the shortcomings existing in the legislative-legal acts and functional mechanisms regulating the sector and ease the burden of employers engaging foreign employees. Chapter 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On foreigners” serves as a basis for implementation of the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The current regulations in the Republic of Armenia for issuing work permits to foreigners and the toolkit introduced on the basis of those regulations have a number of shortcomings, which are as follows:

1. The work permit is issued to the employer, not the foreigner which, on the one hand, creates an additional burden for employers, and on the other hand, foreigners obtain the right to reside in the Republic of Armenia without proper inspection and on the ground of employment.
2. Article 23 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On foreigners” prescribes the exceptions for obtaining a work permit, that is to say, the list of the professions and special categories of foreigners who are exempt from the requirement to obtain a work permit. On the one hand, this regulation facilitates the employment relations of employers and foreigners, and on the other hand, it causes certain problems, particularly the following:
 - a. by being exempt from the obligation to obtain a work permit, the foreigners under these categories are left out of the scope of preliminary inspections and further control which, in its turn, may cause problems with regard to national security,
 - b. in spite of having the right to lawfully reside in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of implementation of labour activities, these foreigners must apply to obtain a residency status in the Republic of Armenia in order to legitimise their residence in the Republic of Armenia which, in its turn, entails extra time and expenses for the foreigner and the employer operating in the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The mentioned problems will mostly be solved through the introduction of Electronic Governance System for Issuance of Work Permits to Foreigners and

	<p>Record-Registration of Employment Contracts Signed with Foreigners. The Electronic Governance System for Issuance of Work Permits to Foreigners and Record-Registration of Employment Contracts Signed with Foreigners is an Internet portal. The System will be installed on three main servers, and the System will be duplicated on an additional backup server in order to ensure uninterrupted operation. The servers will have a three-layer architecture, and each layer is installed on a separate server.</p> <p>The use of such architecture provides the opportunity to ensure a high level of personal protection, as well as to ensure safety of the transfer of data received from and provided to other bodies.</p> <p>The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Police, the National Security Service, the State Revenue Committee and “Ekeng” CJSC.</p> <p>To procure necessary funding, the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia co-operates with the Offices of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The unified electronic platform for registration of foreign employees is launched.</p>
92	<p>Ensuring implementation of the Actions provided for by the Concept Paper on State Management of Migration in the Republic of Armenia for Regulation of Integration and Re-integration Issues, Migration Flows Management, the Crisis Management of the Massive Influx of Forced Migrants and the Promotion of Repatriation</p> <p>92.1.Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2022-2032 Strategy for Regulation of Integration and Re-integration Issues in the Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan arising from the Strategy” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Under point 1 of the Action Plan of the Concept Paper on State Management of Migration in the Republic of Armenia approved by Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 801-L of 20 May 2021, in 2021, it is envisaged to submit to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2022-2032 Strategy for Regulation of Integration and Re-integration Issues in the Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan arising from the Strategy”. Article 33 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum” serves as a basis for implementation of the Action. This also arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to unify and clarify the policy on integration and re-integration for the next decade, as well as to adopt the roadmap for Implementation thereof for the next five years. Part 4 of Article 31 and part 10 of Article 34 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On</p>

refugees and asylum” serve as a ground for implementation of the Action.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, Armenia does not have a comprehensive policy on the re-integration of returning migrants, and there are no specific functions prescribed for competent state bodies. On the other hand, growth of the number of foreigners establishing residence in Armenia for different purposes has been noticed over the past years, and with this, our country is going from being a country of origin of emigrants to becoming a country receiving immigrants as well. To solve the problems of these persons, upon Protocol Decision N 28 of 21 July 2016, the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the concept paper on the policy on integration of persons having been recognised as refugees and having received asylum, as well as long-term migrants, upon Protocol Decision N 8 of 23 February 2017, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the Action Plan for implementation of the concept paper. However, the scope of this programme is limited from the perspective of support to target groups (refugees, those seeking asylum) and support for re-integration (Armenian language instruction, organising of civic orientation courses, solution to the problem with residence).

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2022-2032 Strategy for Regulation of Integration and Re-integration Issues in the Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan arising from the Strategy” was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia in June 2021 and is currently in the stage of revision. Taking into consideration the fact that the draft is still in the stage of consideration, the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has proposed to review the periods of validity of the drafts of the Strategy and Action Plan, setting 2022-2032 instead of 2021-2031 and 2022-2026 instead of 2021-2025, respectively.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the 2022-2032 Strategy for Regulation of Integration and Re-integration Issues in the Migration Policy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2022-2026 Action Plan arising from the Strategy” is adopted.

92.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for Crisis Management of the Massive Influx of Forced Migrants” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Under point 3 of the Action Plan of the Concept Paper on State Management of Migration in the Republic of Armenia approved by Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 801-L of 20 May 2021, in 2021, it is envisaged to submit to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for Crisis Management of the Massive Influx of Forced Migrants”. Article 33 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum” serves as a basis for implementation of the Action. This also arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The aim of implementation of the Action is to specify the functions of public administration bodies in the sphere of management of forced migration flows,

raise the level of co-operation between those public administration bodies, ensure the coordinated activities of public administration bodies and local self-government bodies, local, international, non-governmental and other organisations and increase effectiveness of management of those flows.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The experience in managing the migration flows that emerged after the 44-day war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27 September 2020, the military-political situation created in the region and the probability of the emergence of migration flows conditioned by new possible crises are making the solution to the issue of crisis management of the massive influx of migrants an urgent one.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to submit the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for Crisis Management of the Massive Influx of Forced Migrants” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia in 2021. The co-implementing body of the Action is the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for Crisis Management of the Massive Influx of Forced Migrants” is adopted.

92.3 Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for Promotion of Repatriation” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Under point 4 of the Action Plan of the Concept Paper on State Management of Migration in the Republic of Armenia approved by Annex 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 801-L of 20 May 2021, in 2022, it is envisaged to submit to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for the Promotion of Repatriation”. Article 33 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum” serves as a basis for implementation of the Action. This also arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The aim is to implement the policy on the development of comprehensive relations with the Armenian Diaspora and preservation of Armenian identity and to contribute to repatriation.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

As a key component of the state policy, repatriation is the development and implementation of a number of actions aimed at consolidating the potential of all Armenians. Repatriation is viewed as the right to establish residency in the homeland, and is under patronage of the State as a key factor for preservation of

	<p>the Armenian identity.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is envisaged to submit the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for the Promotion of Repatriation” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia in 2022. The co-implementing body of the Action is the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the Plan for the Promotion of Repatriation” is adopted.</p>
93	<p>Ongoing improvement of the mechanisms for admission of foreign citizens and stateless persons seeking asylum in the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>93.1. Constructing, furnishing a new centre for temporary accommodation designed for asylum seekers</p> <p>2. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>In accordance with part 1 of Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum”, asylum seekers in need of a residence shall be accommodated in a centre for temporary accommodation for asylum seekers before the final decision on their claim for asylum is rendered; the centre is a special institution created for this purpose. The asylum seekers accommodated at the centre for temporary accommodation are provided with conditions for life insurance, in accordance with Article 24 of the Law. The current operating residence is designed for 45 persons and is located in a relatively densely populated district of Yerevan. The Syrian crisis and the ongoing flow of asylum seekers from other countries go to show that the possibility to receive them is strictly insufficient. The statistics on claims for asylum received in the Republic of Armenia over the past five years shows that, on average, 200 persons apply to the authorities of the Republic of Armenia with the request for asylum on an annual basis. Construction and furnishing of the new residence for temporary accommodation designed for asylum seekers also arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to match the possibility of admission of asylum seekers to the centre for temporary accommodation with the existing demand and improve the conditions for life insurance granted to asylum seekers, matching them with international standards. The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On refugees and asylum” serves as a ground for implementation of the Action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In September 2017, the municipal community of Abovyan of Kotayk Marz of the Republic of Armenia allocated 2,0 hectares of land to the State Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia in the city of Abovyan for construction of a new centre for temporary accommodation. The Office of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Armenia, within the scope of the programme “Support to Armenia in the Areas of Migration and Border Management”, developed the Design-Budget Document for the creation of a new centre for temporary accommodation. The funds required for construction of the centre were granted by the governments of Denmark, the Netherlands and</p>

	<p>Germany. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Armenia has expressed the commitment to cover the expenses for furnishing of the building. The activities related to the construction of the centre are significantly behind the envisaged plan due to COVID-19 and later the war.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, through which the activities related to construction of the centre are organised, signed in early 2021 a relevant contract with the organisation declared the winner after the tender for construction works, and the construction works were launched in the spring of 2021. On 28 June 2021, the groundbreaking ceremony for the residence was held with the participation of the representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark which provided the amount for construction of the residence and the Ambassadors of EU member states accredited to the Republic of Armenia and representatives of the diplomatic corps. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the Office of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in Armenia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The new centre for temporary accommodation for asylum seekers which is in line with the international standards is built, furnished and is operating.</p>
94	<p>Effective organisation of readmission processes, in accordance with the international commitments assumed in that field</p> <p>94.1.Expanding the geography of readmission agreements and applying digital solutions in the sector</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>During 2021, 1 readmission agreement and 2 implementation protocols were signed, whereas, in 2022, 1 readmission agreement and 2 implementation protocols were ratified.</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia has signed readmission agreements with the European Union and the Russian Federation. The number of claims received within the scope of readmission agreements increase year after year, and the availability of an electronic governance system, which is in need of ongoing improvement greatly contributes to effective organisation of the process. What is also important is the conclusion of readmission agreements with countries of origin. The expansion of the geography of readmission agreements and the application of digital solutions in the sector also arise from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to sign readmission agreements with a larger number of countries, including countries of origin, and to ensure responses to the claims for readmission submitted by entry states within the scope of the signed agreements properly and in the prescribed periods.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the discussions on readmission agreements with a number of states are over — the texts are agreed and await signing, while the negotiations with some are underway. The claims from EU member states are received through the Electronic System for Management of Readmission Claims, the aim of which is to organise the readmission process quickly and effectively through a modern, automated system. From the perspective of effectiveness of the</p>

organisation of activities, it is important to seek to have the other states also submit claims through the electronic system. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the Police of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Negotiations are being held with other countries, including countries of origin for signing readmission agreements. If possible, the process of receiving claims and sending responses is organised through the Electronic System for Management of Readmission Claims with other states having signed readmission agreements with the Republic of Armenia as well.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

The geography of the readmission agreements is expanded, based on the fact that Armenia is also a country that sends back, digital solutions are applied in the sector.

94.2. Implementing programmes for re-integration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

The promotion of repatriation as well as state support to the process of re-integration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia are among the priorities of the state policy of the Republic of Armenia. Repatriation is one of the primary issues on the pan-Armenian agenda; importance is attached to repatriation in the context of the solution to the existing demographic challenges in the country, as well as the use of the human and financial potential of returnees for the socio-economic development of Armenia. Implementation of the programmes for re-integration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia also arises from the commitments provided for by Section 4.2 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The aim of implementation of the Action is to assist in concentration of the potential of Armenians in the homeland and in ensuring the enhancement of that potential.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

“The State Programme for Primary Support for Re-integration of Citizens Returning (including forced returnee) to the Republic of Armenia” was approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 336-L of 19 March 2020, within the scope of which the apartment rents of returning citizens meeting the criteria of the programme are reimbursed for a period of 6 months, in the amount of AMD 60 thousand. This is the first and only programme being implemented at the state level. All the other programmes for re-integration of returning citizens are mainly being carried out by non-governmental organisations, primarily through funding provided by international organisations and the countries returning migrants, in which certain public administration bodies also participate sometimes. However, such programmes are not ongoing. The issue of coordination of the activities being implemented by various organisations in this direction remains open, which has a negative impact on the activities and co-operation of not only state bodies, but also international organisations and non-governmental organisations operating in that sector. The co-implementing bodies of the Action are the Ministries of

	<p>Labour and Social Affairs, Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Health and Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the Office of the International Center for Migration Policy Development in Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>An objective is set to eliminate the following obstacles for successful re-integration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia: the lack of support for them to move their businesses to Armenia or start a new business in Armenia; low level of access to full information about establishing residency in Armenia and the impossibility of receiving it under the one-stop shop principle; the absence of a unified platform uniting returnees; the problems with making use of the health-care system; the problems with instruction of school-aged children in the Armenian language etc.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Programmes for re-integration of citizens returning to the Republic of Armenia are being carried out, including through state financing or co-financing</p>
95	<p style="text-align: center;">Increasing the effectiveness of commercial organisations with state participation, carrying out radical reforms of the existing system of monitoring and analysis for that purpose, and improving the quality of management of commercial organisations</p> <p>95.1. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1262-N of 5 October 2017” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1262-N of 5 October 2017” is conditioned by the need to reform the system of the current indicators for monitoring and analysis of the activities of commercial organisations with state participation, to improve the quality of management of organisations and raise the level of effectiveness of activities, as well as arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-N of 18 August 2021, and part 1 of Article 33 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” and the provisions of Article 37 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On shareholding companies” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The existing system for monitoring and analysis of the activities of a commercial organisation with state participation is not digitised, and for this reason the periods for implementation of the process do not meet the current requirements. In practice, there are cases when the system of applied indicators does not allow to unequivocally assess the final results of the organisation, as there is a positive trend of growth of some of the indicators, and there is a negative trend of growth of other indicators, and the economic indicators do not fully and precisely assess the final results of the completed activities, depending on the nature of activities of the organisation. The system of the current indicators for monitoring does not serve as a ground for drawing up prospective plans for development of organisations and for defining the projected growth of the indicators of those programmes, for which reason the final results of</p>

	<p>implementation of the business plan are not viewed in the process of monitoring and analysis of the activities of organisations.</p> <p>1.2.Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To increase effectiveness of commercial organisations with state participation, the existing system for monitoring and analysis of the activities of commercial organisations with state participation should be radically reformed, should be made applicable and the quality of management of the organisations should be improved through the system. In particular, there should be such a system of indicators for assessment of the effectiveness of the activities of commercial organisations with state participation that unequivocally assesses the level of effectiveness of the activities and the trends for development, as well as can serve as a basis for drawing up business plans for development of organisations, ensuring projected growth of their indicators and, depending on the final results of implementation, introduce an applicable toolkit for incentivising the managerial staff and subjecting it to liability.</p> <p>At the same time, it is recommended to introduce an electronic system for conducting monitoring in order to increase promptness of the active monitoring system and reduce the periods of conduct of the monitoring.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Due to the electronic system for monitoring and analysis of commercial organisations with state participation and reformed indicators and the development programmes drawn up on the basis of those indicators and ensuring the projected growth of those programmes, the level of effectiveness of the organisations will rise.</p>
96	<p>Solving the social and economic issues of the population, completing, within possible short time period, the process of donating hostels deemed to be state property, and more expedient and effective management of the housing fund, as well as effective and full implementation of the process of gifting and donation of state-owned property through a single legal act</p> <p>96.1. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N305-N of 24 March 2011” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedures for gifting and donation of state-owned property and repealing the decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 305-N of 24 March 2011 and N 1067-N of 3 October 2016” is conditioned by the necessity of carrying out radical reforms of applicable legislation in the field of state property management prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1063-L of 14 July 2022 “On approving the Strategy for reforms in the field of management of state-owned property and the Action Plan arising therefrom”, in particular reduction of the number of legislative acts and secondary legal acts, simplifying the regulations in separate areas of administration, raising the level of accessibility of legal acts, operative and unified regulation of the processes of gifting and donation of state property and aims at raising the level of efficiency in the use of state-owned property, and the Action arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and from the necessity to ensure the practical implementation of the requirements of Articles 594 and 605 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia</p>

and newly updated Articles 6 and 7 of Law “On state property management”.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 1004-A of 1 September 2022 “On approving the Actions ensuring the application of Law ‘On making an amendment and supplements to Law ‘On state property management’” envisages drafting and submission to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedures for gifting and donation of state-owned property”.

So far:

only the process of gifting state-owned residential areas attached to state bodies are regulated by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 305-N of 24 March 2011 “On approving the procedure for gifting the residential areas attached to state bodies”, and currently no regulation is in place for gifting processes of other types of state property. The process of donation of state property has been regulated by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1067-N of 3 October 2016 “On approving the procedure for donation of state-owned property”. Moreover, this Decision does not regulate in a complete and unified manner the process of donation of state property (except for land parcels, funds, residential buildings, constructions, immovable historical and cultural monuments, property defined by points 2, 3 and 4 of part 1 of Article 5 of Law “On state property management”).

The analysis of the mentioned legal acts reveals that both the process of gifting and the process of donation of state property are not regulated in a complete and unified manner.

As a result, the process of gifting and donation of state property does not fully ensure the effective fulfilment of requirements of Articles 594 and 605 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia and Articles 6 and 25 of Law “On state property management”, which given the specific aspects of state property is troublesome and does not contribute to raising the efficiency of state property management.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to set a gifting schedule, to ensure the implementation thereof and to complete the gifting process. At the same time, it is recommended to define through a single legal act the composition, entities of state property subject to gifting and donation and the cases of and conditions for gifting and donation of state property to relevant entities. This will contribute to raising the efficiency of using state property.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

If the decision is adopted, it will be possible to end the process of donations of the residential areas of hostels as soon as possible, which will improve the quality of management of the housing fund and will lead to efficient use and maintenance of the property. The unified and full management of the process of gifting and donation of state property will contribute to raising the efficiency of management of state property.

96.2. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 404 of 14 May 2001” to the Office of the Prime Minister

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 404 of 14 May 2001” is conditioned by the need to simplify, as prescribed by the Decision, implementation of the process of privatisation of the areas of residential hostels offered to persons who were deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan and who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in 1988-1992 and to end the process as soon as possible, and the Action arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and Article 594 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia, Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the legal and social-economic guarantees for persons deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan and having acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in 1988-1992” and part 1 of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there is no reliable base for record-registration regarding the areas of hostels deemed to be state-owned and not privatised to citizens of the Republic of Armenia with the status of refugee. Moreover, there is no information about the families and their compositions living in the non-privatised areas. In the existing procedure there are certain restrictions on periods which cause administrative hassles during the process of privatisation. There is certain incompatibility between the existing procedure and the process that is being implemented in practice.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to record-register in certain hostels the residential rooms, the families and their compositions living in those rooms which are all subject to privatisation. A timetable for privatisation shall be drawn up, and implementation of privatisation shall be ensured. To end the process of privatisation according to the timetable, changes shall be made in the procedure for privatisation. In other words, the restriction on periods shall be ruled out, and the existing procedure shall be brought into compliance with the procedure that is being implemented in practice.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>In case the Decision is adopted, it will be possible to end the process of privatisation of the residential areas of hostels as soon as possible, solve the housing problems of nearly 160 families, end the process of privatisation of areas of hostels, thanks to which the housing stock concerned will be maintained and improved.</p>
96.3	<p>Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedures for gifting and donation of state-owned property and repealing Decision N 1067-N of 3 October 2016”</p> <p>1. The necessity and goal of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedures for gifting and donation of state-owned property and repealing Decision N 1067-N of 3 October 2016” is conditioned by radical reforms of applicable legislation in the field of management of state property defined by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1063-L of 14 July 2022 “On approving the Strategy for reforms in the field of</p>

	<p>management of state property and the Action Plan arising therefrom”, in particular reduction of the number of legislative and secondary legislative acts, simplification of regulations implemented in separate fields of management, raising the level of accessibility of legal acts, the need for operative and unified regulation of the processes of gifting and donation of state property, and aims at raising the level of efficiency of use of state property; the Action also derives from commitments provided by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 1363-A of 18 August 2021 and from the need to ensure in practice the enforcement of the requirements of Articles 594 and 605 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia and newly adjusted Articles 6 and 7 of the law “On state property management”.</p> <p>1.1. The current state of regulatory relations and existing problems</p> <p>Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1004-A of 1 September 2022 “On approving the Actions ensuring the enforcement of Law “On making an amendment and supplements to the Law “On state property management”” envisages developing and submitting to the Office of the Prime Minister Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the procedures for gifting and donation of state-owned property”.</p> <p>So far:</p> <p>No regulation of the process of gifting of other types of state property is in place. The process of donation of state property has been regulated by the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1067-N of 3 October 2016 “On approving the procedure for donation of state-owned property”. Moreover, this Decision does not regulate in a complete and unified manner the process of donation of state property (except for land parcels, funds, residential buildings, constructions, immovable historical and cultural monuments, property defined by points 2, 3 and 4 of part 1 of Article 5 of the Law “On state property management”).</p> <p>The analysis of the mentioned legal acts reveal that both the process of gifting and the process of donation of state property are not regulated in a complete and unified manner.</p> <p>As a result, the process of gifting and donation of state property does not fully ensure the effective enforcement of the requirements of Articles 594 and 605 of the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia and Articles 6 and 25 of the Law “On state property management”, which given the specific aspects of state property is troublesome and does not contribute to raising the efficiency of state property management.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>it is recommended to define through a single legal act the composition, entities of state property subject to gifting and donation, and the cases of and conditions for gifting and donation of state property to relevant entities. This will contribute to raising the effectiveness of the use of state property.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action:</p> <p>The unified and complete management of processes of gifting and donation of the state property will contribute to raising the effectiveness of management of state property.</p>
97	Raising the effectiveness of state property, detecting the deviations from, violations of the requirements of legal acts regulating the use of state property,

and the damage caused thereby, due to monitoring, analysis of the state of use of state property as well as assessment of the level of effectiveness of the use of state property on the basis of data of the uniform electronic **registration** database of state property

97.1. Due to monitoring of use of state immovable property establishing proper control during the period of useful life of property, detecting damages and taking measures for restoring them, as well as assessment for the first time of the effectiveness of the use of immovable property by means of monitoring. Detecting deviations from and violations of the requirements of legal acts and obligations undertaken under concluded contracts; setting aside state property that is not used or is not used effectively; submitting reports on the results and improvement of the use of property, recommendations on establishing a new monitoring department as a result of optimisation of operating subdivisions of the Committee and use of staff positions, to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action

Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to conduct monitoring for use and maintenance of state property delivered to the authorised body for the purpose of submitting recommendations to identify and improve the condition for use and maintenance of state property. The Action arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and the requirements for Improvement of Record-registration of State Property and Maintenance of a Unified Register and Introduction of a System for Monitoring of Immovable Property in Action 7 of the Annex approved under point 1 of part 1 of Article 6 and part 2 of Article 13 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” and Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1834-L of 5 December 2019 “On approving the Concept Paper on State Property” were accepted as a basis.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, a need is emerging to conduct monitoring of the condition for use of state-owned immovable property of state non-commercial organisations under state bodies and state-owned immovable property transferred to commercial organisations with state participation for gratuitous use in order to identify the main directions for raising the level of effectiveness of management and use of state property. The monitoring is an extremely important toolkit for adopting substantiated decisions during management of state property in the future. According to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 202-N of 18 February 2021, a new toolkit has been introduced, which will provide the opportunity to clarify the condition of immovable property, identify the flaws, shortcomings and the violations committed by the user.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to draw up an annual plan for monitoring of up to 300 units of immovable property according to priority, conduct monitoring of the condition for use of up to 300 units of immovable property included in the plan for monitoring of state property; detect deviations and violations of the requirements of legal acts and concluded contracts; set aside state property that is not used or is not used effectively; submit reports on the results and recommendations on improvement of the use of property to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

	<p>Establishing proper control in the period of use of property due to monitoring of the use of immovable state property; identifying damages and taking measures to recover them, as well as assessing effectiveness of the use of immovable property thanks to monitoring for the first time; setting aside property that is not used or are not used effectively and submitting proposals for future use of those properties. The results of the monitoring for the first year (2021) will help to determine the level of effectiveness of the use of state property and the amount of recoverable funds in the future.</p>
98.	<p>Replacement of areas not falling under state ownership and being used by public authorities and state organisations, at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, with areas not falling under state ownership</p> <p>98.1. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia “On replacing non-state areas leased for state needs with state areas” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The Action is conditioned by the need to economise the expenses made from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia due to the increase of effectiveness of state property management, particularly reduction of the rents for non-state areas leased for use of property (leasing), as well as for state needs, and it arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and Articles 7 and 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” and part 1 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state non-commercial organisations” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>To increase the effectiveness of the use of state property, as well as to economise the expenses made from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for rents of areas leased for state needs, the State Property Management Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia has considered the opportunities of replacing non-state areas leased by state bodies with areas that are not actually used and are under state bodies, as well as state institutions or organisations operating in the sector of state bodies.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To implement the measure, it is envisaged to set up a working group that will conduct studies in the non-state areas leased for state needs; in particular, the working group will conduct a study on the condition for use of non-state areas leased in accordance with the concluded contracts, the conditions for leasing and the results of those studies and will submit a relevant draft Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia in regard to replacement of non-state areas leased for state needs with free state areas.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Due to the process of replacing state-owned areas not used by state structures — in exchange of the rent at the expense of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia — with relevant areas deemed to be state-owned, the expenses from the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia will be reduced at the expense of the provision of rent payments.</p>

99	<p>Establishing the composition of state property not subject to alienation for implementation of the functions of the State</p> <p>99.1. Defining the requirements for immovable property required for implementation of the functions of state bodies and setting aside the composition and surface area of property not subject to alienation, at the initiative of the Committee, with the participation of state bodies and on the basis of recommendations, as well as the results of monitoring being conducted for implementation of functions of the State. Making amendments to the Programme of State Property Management for 2021-2023 approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 458-L of 1 April 2021 on the basis of the mentioned information.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The aim of implementation of the Action is to define the composition of state property not subject to alienation for implementation of the functions of the State, define the requirements for immovable property required for implementation of the functions of state bodies on the basis of the results of a study on international practice and the monitoring being implemented according to the requirements set under Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 202-N of 18 February 2021, as well as separate the composition and surface area of the property not subject to alienation. The Action arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and the requirements of point 1 of part 1 of Article 6 and Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The requirement of state bodies for immovable property for implementation of state functions is not defined, as a result of which the property required for meeting the needs of the State is often alienated and, as a result, the funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia are not used carefully.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For implementation of the functions of the State, proceeding from the recommendations submitted by state bodies, it is recommended to define the composition of state property not subject to alienation, to introduce, at the initiative of the Committee, with the participation of state bodies and on the basis of recommendations, and as prescribed by law, a new toolkit, by which the requirements for immovable property will be set and the composition and surface area of property not subject to alienation will be separated.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Ensuring inviolability of the property concerned and introducing a new toolkit for the property concerned in order to increase effectiveness of management for implementation of the functions of the State by determining the composition and amounts of the required property. At the same time, introducing specific restrictions in the process of alienation, failing to meet the requirement for the mentioned areas and avoiding needless waste of funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia in the future.</p>
100	<p>Creating a favourable environment for investments and engaging investments, as well as adding funds to the state and community budgets</p>

	<p>of the Republic of Armenia due to alienation of state property</p> <p>100.1. Gathering relevant documents on at least ten units of immovable property with 1 bln and more evaluated cost and investment interest and organising the process of alienation in order to create a favourable environment for investments and increase effectiveness of state property</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the creation of a favourable environment for investments and the need for the process of alienation of immovable property with investment interest as a result of implementation of investment programmes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The process of alienation of state property is not being implemented with the required effectiveness, the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and community budgets are not increased at the expense of alienation of property not used and used ineffectively, investment programmes are not implemented through the inclusion of property.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to implement, through the inclusion of property by way of alienation, large investment programmes that will raise the level of usefulness of the immovable property for the public and will ensure additional entries for the State Budget and community budgets of the Republic of Armenia. As a result of implementation of the investment programme, additional jobs will be open and wide opportunities will be created for the provision of public services, and certain issues related to construction and social issues will be solved.</p> <p>1.3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increase of entries to the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and community budgets due to alienation of state property with high liquidity; in particular, in the best case scenario of a sale, entries of up to AMD 7 bln to the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, and up to AMD 3 bln to community budgets; at the same time, creation of new jobs and ensuring investments up to AMD 5 bln.</p>
101	<p>Increasing effectiveness of the process of alienation of non-core state property, creating a new toolkit to this end by means of outsourcing to specialised institutions</p> <p>101.1. For the purpose of organising the alienation of up to 3 units of non-profile state property effectively (within the scope of a pilot programme), engaging specialised organisations in those activities through competition and regulating their participation through the creation of a new toolkit</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need to engage, through competition, specialised organisations in the alienation of non-profile state property (within the scope of a pilot programme) in order to organise the process effectively. The Action arises from the commitments provided for by</p>

	<p>Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia no 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and the requirements of Articles 7, 20, 21 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Ineffective organisation of the process of alienation of state property does not contribute to the increase of the State Budget and community budgets of the Republic of Armenia and implementation of investment programmes through the inclusion of property. Effective implementation of the process of alienation also requires the involvement of specialised brokerage organisations in the process.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to engage, through competition, specialised organisations in the process of alienation of up to 3 units of non-profile state property (within the scope of a pilot programme) in order to organise the process effectively.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The entries into the State Budget and community budgets of the Republic of Armenia will increase as a result of alienation of non-profile state property; in particular, in the best case scenario, up to AMD 2.1 bln will enter into the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, and up to AMD 900 mln will enter into the community budgets. At the same time, new jobs will be open, and investments of up to AMD 1.5 bln will be ensured.</p>
102	<p>Creating a conducive investment climate and establishment of securities market, as well as carrying out the process of privatisation of commercial organisations with state participation and with a relatively high level of profitability through the stock exchange</p> <p>102.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On approving Draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the 2017-2020 Plan for Privatisation of State Property””</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Implementation of the Action is conditioned by the need for reforms in the process of formation of a favourable environment for investments and the privatisation of commercial organisations with state participation. Adoption of the legal act arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management”, Article 191 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On privatisation of state property”, point (g) of part 1 of Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On privatisation of state property” and Action 12 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1834-L of 5 December 2019 “On approving the Concept Paper on State Property” and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the 2017-2020 Plan for Privatisation of State Property” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>From the perspective of the investment environment and improvement of the economic development of the Republic of Armenia, the first important thing is</p>

	<p>the functioning of the securities market, and the second important thing is the development of the market. For this purpose, it is recommended to make relevant changes in the 2017-2020 Plan for Privatisation, engage profitable commercial organisations with state participation and privatise them through the stock exchange.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of optimising the composition of commercial organisations with state participation not subject to privatisation and establishing the final list of commercial organisations subject to privatisation, for improvement of the investment environment and the economic development of the Republic of Armenia, it is recommended to present the list of profitable commercial organisations with state participation for privatisation, the process of privatisation of which will be implemented through the stock exchange, by submitting the list to the Central Bank for its consent.</p> <p>Through extensive preparatory activities, the list of commercial organisations with state participation subject to privatisation will be ultimately adjusted, and the organising of the process of privatisation of organisations included in the list in accordance with the recommendations submitted by interested state bodies through the stock exchange.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Reforms in the policy being implemented in the fields of management of commercial organisations with state participation, thanks to which the entries to the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia will increase.</p>
103	<p>Optimising the composition and structure of commercial organisations with state participation not subject to privatisation, setting the number thereof according to branches, as well as setting aside of organisations that operate at loss, are not effective and have no prospect for development, and inclusion in the plan for privatisation</p> <p>Increasing effectiveness of the activities of commercial organisations with state participation, introducing the active system of monitoring and analysis and introducing the reformed electronic system with applicable indicators</p> <p>103.1. Submitting the Draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making an amendment to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 474-N of 29 April 2010” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 474-N of 29 April 2010” arises from the need to change the quality of management of the activities of commercial organisations with state participation, as a result of which there will be improvement of the final results of organisations and increase of the level of profitability, and it arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management”.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

Proceeding from the need for the functions being implemented by the State, the number of commercial organisations with state participation is not clearly defined, the composition and structure of the main funds existing in every organisation has not been optimised from the perspective of effectiveness of use. The products of commercial organisations with state participation and the quality of services provided do not comply with the requirements of the majority of the population, the directors of organisations are not mainly motivated to improve the fiscal indicators of the organisation transferred to their management, active business plans do not lie at the core of the activities of organisations, there are no investment funds within those business plans, the implementation of projected indicators is not realistic, the participation of superior management bodies in the development and approval of programmes, as well as control over implementation of the programmes. The level of profitability of organisations is very far from the required satisfactory level, the number of organisations working with damages and without prospect for development has formed a significant specific weight for years. There is no relationship between the activities of the organisation and the final results and subjecting the managerial staff to liability or incentives.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The following are the solutions recommended for improvement of the activities of commercial organisations with state participation:

- it is necessary to optimise the composition and structure of the main resources of organisations, record-register the number of the main resources not used or used ineffectively, specify the number of commercial organisations with state participation, accepting as a criterion for clarification the need for implementation of the functions clearly prescribed by the State. In particular:
 - (a) set aside the main resources not used or used ineffectively and submit recommendations for possession in the future;
 - (b) include in the 2017-2020 Plan for Privatisation of State Property the commercial organisations with state participation, the functions implemented by which are implemented by non-state commercial organisations more effectively and the sectors are in need of significant investments;
 - (c) privatise the commercial organisations with state participation, which have constantly worked for the past 3 years with more damages, have allowed addition of accumulated damage and do not have a prospect for development as a result of implementation of investment programmes;
 - (d) dissolve the commercial organisations with state participation which have worked constantly over the past 3 years with damages and have allowed increase of the volume of accumulated damage and do not have a prospect for development;
 - (e) transfer certain organisations in need of engaging investments to trust and concession management for effective management.

Establish a system of indicators for assessment of the results of activities of commercial organisations with state participation which unequivocally assesses the final results of the activities of the organisations and may serve as a ground for drawing up the development plans of the organisations and ensuring projected growth of their indicators.

To raise the level of productivity and profitability of work, develop and approve, along with the superior management bodies of commercial organisations with state participation, the business plans of the organisations, make investments and oversee their implementation and execution.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

	<p>Proceeding from the need for implementation of the functions prescribed by the State, to define the number of organisations not subject to privatisation; at the initiative of superior bodies and with the participation of the State Property Management Committee, raise the level of profitability of organisations through development of effective programmes and implementation of Actions for investments; add to the entries into the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and own funds of organisations and investment opportunities, as well the opportunities for encouraging the personnel.</p>
104	<p>Setting aside of property maintained as state ownership in need of improvement and not subject to further alienation, in order to raise the level of effectiveness of state property management, and ensuring capital renovation and reconstruction of that property by providing it for long-term lease or for gratuitous use for implementation of certain investment programmes</p> <p>104.1. Providing up to ten immovable state property in need of improvement for long-term lease or for gratuitous use for a certain period</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The aim of the Action is to improve state property and increase effectiveness of management through capital renovation and reconstruction of state property. Implementation of the Action arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia no 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and Articles 7 and 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” were accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Due to the scarcity of funds in the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia, capital renovation and reconstruction works are not being carried out for improvement of the condition of state property; as a result, state property is becoming more physically worn out. It is necessary to engage the funds of private entities for maintaining the satisfactory condition of property required for state needs.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to provide up to ten immovable state properties in need of improvement for long-term lease or for gratuitous use for a certain period.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Immovable property deemed to be state-owned will be capitally renovated and improved due to investments of private entities, new jobs will be created due to investments and the funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia will increase. An annual report on the results of the Action will be submitted. Investment of up to AMD 500 mln is initially envisaged.</p>
105	<p>Implementing investment programmes through the involvement of state property and enhancing small and medium-sized enterprises in the field of State-communities partnership in marzes</p> <p>105.1. Implementing local socio-economic investment programmes through the involvement of property that is not used or is used ineffectively in the marzes, alienating immovable property with liquidity not higher than up to ten units, providing immovable property for lease and gratuitous use through the assistance of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and</p>

	<p>communities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The aim of the Action is to implement local socio-economic investment programmes through the involvement of property that is not used or is used ineffectively and enhance small and medium-sized enterprises. Implementation of the Action arises from the commitments provided for by Section 6.7 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved upon Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, and Article 9 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state property management” was accepted as a basis.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the state-owned immovable and movable property is mainly morally and physically worn out; besides the level of liquidity of immovable and movable property not used or used ineffectively and subject to alienation and the investment attractiveness are rather low. The low level of liquidity is, to a certain extent, conditioned by the several shortcomings and omissions in organising sale of the property concerned and the unsatisfactory level of public awareness about the property for sale. Currently, sector-specific, territorial (community) investment programmes are not being carried out sufficiently through the involvement of state property, there is not enough support to the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises, there is no planned optimisation of state property, composition and structure at the macro and micro levels in order to create sustainable preconditions for economic growth.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For implementation of local socio-economic investment programmes, alienation of immovable property with low liquidity, provision of immovable property for lease and gratuitous use, it is recommended to give the leaders of communities of the Republic of Armenia, on the ground of a relevant assignment of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia, information about the property that is not used or is used ineffectively in their respective communities, as well as provide assistance to implement the process of the Action concerned properly.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>The entries in the State Budget and community budgets of the Republic of Armenia will grow due to implementation of investments through the involvement of property in different communities of the Republic of Armenia. Investments worth up to AMD 400 mln will be ensured, new jobs will be created, and the demand for facilities in certain sectors (hotel, bakery, resort, cultural institution...) will be met.</p>
106	<p>Fulfilling the pre-election pledges of Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan</p> <p>106.1 Implementing the steps arising from the pre-election pledges of Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan for improvement of the socio-economic situation in communities</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the pre-election pledge that Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan made during the</p>

	<p>election campaign in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Settlements will be more comfortable for living after implementation of the Actions targeted at the socio-economic development of communities.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The programmes being implemented will be targeted at the construction and renovation of roads in the communities of the Republic of Armenia; the lighting on streets; the construction and renovation of water supply and water disposal systems; the construction of a system for supply of natural gas to communities; the renovation, reconstruction and construction of kindergartens; the renovation and construction of public buildings, including culture homes, community centres, healthcare and sport centres; the construction and improvement of the look of parks and groves and the acquisition of technical equipment and items.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>After completion of the Action, all settlements of the Republic of Armenia will grow proportionately and sustainably, the settlements will be more comfortable for living.</p>
107	<p>Ensuring rational and proportionate extraction of resources</p> <p>107.1 Adopting Decision of the Government “On approving the Draft Law “On peculiarities of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the Law “On peculiarities of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas” is conditioned by implementation of Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and European Union and European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, according which as a result of approximation with the Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons” the Draft Law “On peculiarities of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas” (hereinafter referred to as the “Law”) and secondary legal acts deriving from the Law must be developed. The Law shall define the principles and procedure for allocation for use of subsoil for the purpose of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, shall regulate the relations pertaining to protection of the health of population, nature and the environment from harmful effects of subsoil use, ensuring safety of performance of works, as well as relations pertaining to the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of individuals and the state during petroleum activities.</p> <p>It also stems from the commitments envisaged by point 9 of paragraph 1 of section 2.8 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

<p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently the legal relations pertaining to geological explorations of oil and natural gas are regulated by Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1431-N and No 1421-N of 1 November 2012, while no complex legal relations with regard to extraction are established.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The recommended Draft Law will regulate the principles and procedure for allocation for use of subsoil for the purpose of both geological explorations and extraction of oil and natural gas.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Sustainable management of natural resources.</p>	<p>107.2. Ensuring rational and proportionate extraction of resources</p> <p>Adopting secondary regulatory legal acts deriving from the Law “On peculiarities of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of secondary regulatory legal acts deriving from the Law “On peculiarities of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas is conditioned by implementation of Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and European Union and European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, according which as a result of approximation with the Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons” the Draft Law of the Republic of Armenia “On peculiarities of geological exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas” (hereinafter referred to as the “Law”) and secondary legal acts deriving from the Law must be developed. The development of secondary regulatory legal acts will ensure the implementation of the Law, by fully regulating the legal relations with regard to exploration and extraction of oil and natural gas in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>It also stems from the commitments envisaged by point 9 of paragraph 1 of section 2.8 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third core objective of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently the legal relations pertaining to geological explorations of oil and natural gas are regulated by Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1431-N and No 1421-N of 1 November 2012, while no complex legal relations with regard to extraction are established.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Adoption of secondary regulatory legal acts will ensure the implementation of the Law, the legal relations pertaining to explorations and extraction of oil and</p>
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<p>natural gas in the territory of the Republic of Armenia will be fully regulated, in particular the model forms of petroleum activities and production sharing agreements, forms of authorisations for petroleum activities, procedure for classification of oil and natural gas resources, as well as other secondary regulatory legal acts will be developed and approved.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Sustainable management of natural resources.</p>	<p>107.3 Ensuring rational and proportionate extraction of resources</p> <p>Adoption of Decision of the Government “On defining the procedure for extraction of renewable resources of sand and sand and gravel mixture in alluvial deposits”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action stems from the requirement of point 25 of part 2 of Article 15 of the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, the legal relation pertaining to extraction of renewable resources of sand and sand and gravel mixture in alluvial deposits have not been fully regulated yet.</p> <p>It also stems from the commitments envisaged by point 9 of paragraph 1 of section 2.8 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third and eighth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the relations pertaining to the extraction of river sand from alluvial deposits of river Araks in the territory of the Republic of Armenia are regulated by Decision No 18-N of 10 January 2008. The submitted Draft Decision will regulate the relations pertaining to extraction of renewable resources of sand and sand and gravel mixture from alluvial deposits throughout the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, including also from the boundary layer of riverbeds of bordering rivers.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The recommended Draft Decision will define the requirements to extraction of the renewable resources of sand and sand and gravel mixture from alluvial deposits, will regulate legal relations pertaining to furnishing the vehicles for loading and transporting of mined raw materials with Global Positioning System (GPS) during the works of extraction of stocks of sand and gravel mixture from alluvial deposits located in boundary layer of riverbeds of bordering rivers and connecting this system to the server infrastructure.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Sustainable management of natural resources.</p>
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<p>107.4 Ensuring rational and proportionate extraction of resources</p> <p>Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1129-N of 2 July 2020”</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the Action</p> <p>Regulations related to issuance of permits for the construction of riverbed barriers will also be defined in the procedure for issuance of a one-off permit for extraction of minerals.</p> <p>It also stems from the commitments envisaged by point 9 of paragraph 1 of section 2.8 of 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 and from the third and eighth core objectives of the 2020-2050 Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently the procedure approved by Decision 1129-N regulates the legal relations pertaining to issuance of a one-off permit for extraction of non-metallic minerals, nevertheless the established regulations apply to the construction of transport or communication channels, tunnels, reservoirs.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>According to the proposed regulations, a one-off permit for extraction of non-metallic minerals will also apply to construction of riverbed barriers.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Sustainable management of natural resources.</p>
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Ministry of Finance	
N/N	RATIONALE
1.	<p>1. Bringing the budget programmes in compliance with the policies prescribed by the existing strategy documents</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: points 1 and 2 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia", as well as the pre-election programme of the political party "Civil Contract".</p>

	<p>Despite the fact that the State Budget for 2019 has been prepared and approved in accordance with the requirements of the Programme Budgeting (PB), however, the connection and harmonisation of budget programmes with the Strategic Planning System is not yet fully ensured. In particular, it refers to definition of the objectives of budget programmes and relevant outcome indicators and harmonisation of the latter with the Strategic Planning System.</p> <p><i>The Action is aimed at</i> bringing the budget programmes in compliance with policies implemented by existing strategic documents.</p> <p><u><i>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</i></u></p> <p>The mechanisms for organising and harmonising the strategic planning process with the budget process in the Republic of Armenia are defined by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 42-45 of 5 October 2017, which regulates the process of elaborating, submitting and carrying out control over the strategic documents having an impact on state revenues and expenditures. The latter defines joint procedures, hierarchy, structures for the elaboration, submission of strategic documents, mainly for the purpose of ensuring the explicit connection between strategic documents and budget programmes, which is also based on the logic of PB reforms. In this regard, in accordance with the 2019-2023 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the state administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia have undertaken the activities of reviewing and elaborating their sector-specific strategies, which is based on approaches defined by the above-mentioned Decision, which results in the necessity of reviewing and bringing the existing budget programmes into compliance with the strategic documents contextually reviewed.</p> <p><u><i>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ studying the existing budget programmes; ○ assessing the compliance with the strategic documents in effect and ○ reviewing the content and structures of the budget programme, upon necessity. <p><u><i>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</i></u></p> <p>All the budget programmes comply with the existing strategic documents.</p>
2.	<p>2. Establishing a monitoring and assessment system for state budget programmes</p> <p><u><i>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</i></u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: points 1, 3 and 4 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia", as well as the pre-election programme of the political party "Civil Contract".</p> <p>Assessing the budget programme implies a co-ordinated method for receiving, analysing and using the information on the programme, which answers the questions on the effectiveness and usefulness of the programme.</p>

The action is aimed at having a regular process of assessing the effectiveness and usefulness of the budget programme. As compared to assessment, monitoring is defined as an ongoing function which, through the systematic collection of data on specific indicators, provides programme managers and stakeholders with information on the progress of programme implementation and the achievement of results, as well as the degree of using resources. Monitoring and assessment (MA) are deemed to be integrated systemic processes. It allows identifying both the need for certain changes and improvements having arisen during the implementation of the programme, as well as the demand for further improvements and development.

The objective of the action is also to avoid functional repetitions during the inspections and studies carried out by the Department for Financial and Budgetary Supervision of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia and the State Supervision Service of the Republic of Armenia, respectively, and take a unified approach.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, regular processes of assessing the budget programmes are not introduced, which restricts the opportunity of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to assess the impact and the outcomes of the budget programmes. Within the scope of PB reforms, introduction of the process of periodic and regular assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the budget programmes is an important step following the review of the budget programmes and harmonisation with the Strategic Planning System.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- Conducting a study and elaborating a concept paper for the purpose of introducing a function of assessing the budget programmes in the budget process of the Republic of Armenia;
- Elaborating guidelines for assessing the budget programmes on the basis of the concept paper;
- Elaborating the schedule of introducing assessment functions, and actions;
- Implementing actions aimed at introducing assessment functions;
- Assessing the budget programmes in compliance with assessment guidelines.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Expected outcome from the implementation of this action is the introduction of regular processes of assessing and monitoring of budget programmes, as well as the training of relevant specialists of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia and the development of relevant capacities aimed at assessment and monitoring of budget programmes, as well as more effective and targeted use of human resources.

3. Introduction of a participatory budgeting process

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Grounds for the implementation of the action: points 1, 5 and 6 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the

Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia", as well as the pre-election programme of the political party "Civil Contract".

The objective of the action is to provide for a regular process in the budget legislation for envisaging expenses for the implementation of participatory budgeting projects from state funds, which will target the most important, urgent and current issues for civil society organisations, citizens and residents of communities, their active participation in the process of proposing, discussing and taking decisions will be promoted.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, at different levels of the budget system, as well as at different stages of the budget process, potential processes of involvement of civil society organisations, citizens and the population, co-operation with them and settlement of the issues and implementation of the programmes and recommendations put forward by them are carried out; however, necessity arises to introduce participatory budgeting tools within the framework of budgetary legislative reforms in order to introduce institutional mechanisms and regular procedures for participatory budgeting.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- Elaborating a concept paper for the purpose of introducing the participatory budgeting system in the budget process of the Republic of Armenia;
- Elaborating budget legislation and secondary legal acts based on the concept paper;
- Elaborating and publishing guidelines, methodical materials clarifying participatory budgeting procedures;
- Awareness raising among civil society organisations, citizens and the population of communities about the existing institutional mechanisms and procedures for participatory budgeting, as well as conducting seminars and consultations;
- Establishing and operating a participatory budgeting platform.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The expected outcome of this action is the involvement of civil society organisations, citizens and the population in budget discussions within the framework of the participatory budgeting mechanisms prescribed by the legislation, co-operation with them and the provision of accountability transparency regarding the nomination of programme projects thereby, decision-making regarding the selection of the presented programmes and the implementation process of the selected programmes.

4. Revising methodical instructions for submitting the MTEF and annual budget requests, simplifying and facilitating the processes

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Grounds for the implementation of the action: 2019-2023 2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Charter of the Ministry of

Finance of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018.

The necessity to implement the Action: revision of instructions, simplifying and facilitating the processes.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is to revise the methodical instructions for submitting the MTEF and annual budget requests, to simplify and facilitate the processes.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Based on the results of the self-assessments carried out by the Ministry of Finance for the purpose of reviewing the programme budgeting methodology in state administration bodies, relevant recommendations were also received from state administration bodies regarding revision of the methodical instructions for submitting the MTEF and annual budget requests, simplification and facilitation of the processes.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Before starting the budget process for 2024-2026, review, revise, simplify and facilitate the methodical instructions for submitting the MTEF and annual budget requests

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The methodical instructions for submitting the MTEF and annual budget requests are revised, the processes are simplified and facilitated.

5. Simplification of the procedures for secondments to foreign states, optimisation of document circulation volumes, clarification of the powers to make decisions on international secondments

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Grounds for the implementation of the actions: points 1, 5 and 6 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The need of adopting the draft is conditioned by the need of clarifying the functional powers of state bodies, optimising the volumes of official document circulation and, for that purpose, revising the regulations related to international secondments. It is envisaged to make amendments and supplements to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1230-N of 19 September 2018 and accordingly clarify the procedures for compensation of the secondment expenses as prescribed by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2335-H of 29 December 2005.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

- Financing of secondment expenses from the funds envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for international official secondments is carried out at the expense of the funds envisaged for the action 11002 "Official international secondments" of the programme 1185 of the centralised

fund reflected in the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia in a separate line.

- Secondments of the heads of state administration bodies and their deputies, as well as the secondments funded at the expense of the State Budget shall be processed upon the decisions of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. The draft decisions of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia shall be circulated in the manner prescribed and opinions shall be provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia.
- In case of all secondments, after returning from the secondment, the report on the results of the secondment shall be submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister, which shall be published on the official website of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

- It is envisaged to distribute the centralised funds in the form of a separate action in the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia according to the bodies, and engage such funds as maintenance expenses of public authority bodies, so that the international secondment of an official representing a state body is processed upon decision of the head of the given body, and the financing of the expenses are carried out at the expense of the funds envisaged for international secondments in the maintenance expenses of the given body.
- Only secondments of Deputy Prime Ministers, heads of state administration bodies (except for inspection bodies subordinate to the Government and bodies subordinate to the Ministry) shall be processed upon decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. In all other cases relevant legal acts on secondments will be adopted by the head of the relevant body.
- Only the report on the results of secondments processed upon decision of the Prime Minister shall be submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.
- In all other cases, the reports on the results of the secondment and the final calculation of the expenses of the secondment shall be submitted to the relevant body, which shall be published on the websites of the relevant bodies, correspondingly.
- In order to compensate expenses related to international secondments, after returning from the secondment, the report on the final calculation of the expenses of the secondment shall be submitted to the Ministry of Finance. They shall be recorded and summarised by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, and the summary reports by quarters and by general managers for budget authorisation shall be reflected on the website of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, and shall also be submitted to the Directorate of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

2. Expected outcomes from the implementation of the action

- Procedure for international secondments will be simplified and the powers to make decisions will be clarified, the volume of official document circulation, the number of decisions taken by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia will be reduced. The secondments will be carried out by the decision of the head of the relevant body, except for the heads of the state administration bodies, the secondment whereof will be proceeded upon

	<p>the decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expenses of international secondments will be included in the maintenance expenses of the public administration bodies envisaged by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia and will be refunded at the expense of such funds. <p>Reports on the results of the secondments proceeded upon the decision of the head of the given body, as well as on the final calculation of expenses will be published on the website of each body.</p> <p>6. Revising the budget legislation of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: points 1, 5 and 6 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia", as well as the pre-election programme of the political party "Civil Contract".</p> <p>The objective of the action is to study the Law "On budget system", identify and reveal the existing issues that have arisen or may arise by the rapid amendments to the law currently implemented in the field of public finance, and to make relevant amendments and supplements thereto.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, many reforms are being implemented at different levels of the budget system, as well as at different stages of the budget process requiring up-to-date regulations during their implementation, which lead to the need for reforms in the regulations prescribed by the budget legislation.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of budget legislation; • Revealing the existing issues of the budget legislation of the Republic of Armenia requiring solutions; • Submitting recommendations on the revision of the budget legislation of the Republic of Armenia. <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The expected outcome of this action is the revision of the budget legislation of the Republic of Armenia, as necessary, along with the reforms implemented in the public sector.</p>
7.	<p>7. Defining the primary directions and the action plan for the development of the procurement system</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p>

	<p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 7 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The necessity of the implementation of the action stems from the fulfilment of assignment issued by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of improving the procurement system and is aimed at undertaking activities of improving the system based on the concept paper of the system development approved by the Government.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The issues of the procurement system have been identified, which are mainly conditioned both by the continuous development of capacities of persons involved in the procurement process, and complete digitisation of procedures, reduction of terms for organising the procedures to the extent possible, review of standards applied in technical specifications.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>Ensure the further development and implementation of improvements of the system based on the concept paper of developing the procurement system and action plan approved by the Government</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Transparent and effectively operating procurement system.</p>
8.	<p>8. Introducing a new system of electronic procurement</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 7 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The action is aimed at introducing a new Electronic Procurement System in compliance with the current requirements, which will be integrated with other electronic systems interconnected with procurements. At the same time, it will be possible to expand the scope of clients using the system up to 100%.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The operation of software of Electronic Tendering System has started since 2012. The system has been initially intended to be used only by the state bodies while making procurements through a tender. Both the scope of clients using the System (around 300 clients) and the quantity of applicable procurement forms have expanded in the context of continuous reforms carried out in the Procurement System. Currently, 3 out of 4 procurement forms — tender,</p>

	<p>price quotation and procurements from one person conditioned by the urgency basis — are carried out through that System.</p> <p>However, it should be stated that from functionality perspective it is not possible to completely bring the mentioned system into compliance with the legislation in effect and amendments being made for the purpose of making improvements therein. In particular, certain contextual actions continue to be carried out through human intervention, which leads both to the use of additional resources and technical errors as a result of those actions. It is also impossible to ensure the complete transfer or publication of information existing in the system in modules of contract management and procurement reporting, the technical maintenance of the system and making amendments therein, upon necessity, are costly, which is also conditioned by the fact that the system has an outdated software base.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the scope of clients using the Electronic Procurement System; • Complete automation of procurement procedures; • Complete data received automatically; • Complete integration of the system with other systems directly connected with the organisation of procurement procedures. <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Electronic Procurement System in compliance with current requirements.</p>
9.	<p>9. Reducing terms for making payments for the result of the contract</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 7 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, provisions of pre-election programme of the political part "Civil Contract", point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The action is aimed at making payments for the results adopted within the scope of the contract signed within 5 days upon approval of delivery and acceptance protocol, taking into consideration the quarterly proportions of implementation of budget expenses.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>In accordance with the regulation in effect, payments are made within the last three days of the month envisaged by the contract.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>Elaborate a relevant draft legal act, in case of approval whereof, the payments for the result adopted will be provided within a maximum period of 5 working</p>

	<p>days, taking into consideration the quarterly proportions of implementation of budget expenses. The latter will provide the opportunity to properly plan their financial transactions, taking into consideration the increase in the level of financial predictability.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Reduce the terms of making payments envisaged by the procurement contracts.</p>
10	<p>10. Continuous capacity building of persons that are involved in the procurement process and that of decision makers</p> <p><i>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Concept Paper approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 977-L of 25 August 2022.</p> <p>The objective of the action is the continuous development of the capacities of persons that are involved in the procurement process and make decisions.</p> <p><i>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</i></p> <p>About 1,500 qualified specialists operate in the procurement system, and about 100,000 procurement processes are organised annually. The system of training and qualification of procurement specialists has been introduced since 2017, in particular, the process of awarding qualifications is organised through electronic testing. Qualified persons undergo, in a mandatory manner, at least 12 hours of continuous professional training course every three years according to the programme established by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>As a result of analysis of the information collected from the state administration bodies by the Ministry of Finance in 2019-2021, it was revealed that the probability of unilateral termination of contracts during the mentioned period is 0.57%, moreover, as a result of the unilateral termination of the contract, a security measure was "charged" only in 10 cases (i.e. the probability of charging an actual measure is 0.07%).</p> <p>There are 2 versions of the explanation of this reality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the procurement system works flawlessly, ensuring the provision of services of the required quality, supply of works and goods to the public; b. in the procurement system there is a critical problem of elaboration of tasks and contract management based on the latter. <p>Based on the results of the discussions held with the state administration and local self-government bodies and their subordinate units in September-October 2021, it may be concluded that the current procurement system is sufficiently flexible in terms of the organisation of tender processes.</p> <p>However, the above-mentioned indicators, as well as the issues raised during the discussions, suggest that there are deep issues in the planning and contract management stages.</p> <p><i>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</i></p>

	<p>Initiate approval and implementation of training programmes through needs assessment.</p> <p><i>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Persons that are involved in the procurement process and make decisions have sufficient knowledge to properly organise the procurement planning, procedure organisation and contract management processes.</p>
11.	<p>11. Improving the toolkit for providing methodical support on procurement processes</p> <p><u><i>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</i></u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Concept Paper approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 977-L of 25 August 2022.</p> <p>The objective of the action is to publish questions frequently received from contracting authorities and bidders and the clarifications provided in relation thereto in the Official Journal for Procurement.</p> <p><u><i>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation: 1. Necessity and objective of the implementation of the action</i></u></p> <p>Frequently asked questions and clarifications are not published, which leads to an increase in the number of clarifications addressed to the Ministry of Finance and the volume of advisory questions</p> <p><u><i>1.2 Frequently asked questions and clarifications</i></u></p> <p>Publication of frequently asked questions and clarifications in a separate section in the Official Journal for Procurement — increasing access to information on frequently encountered issues and options for their solution.</p> <p><i>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Reduction of the number of clarifications addressed to the Ministry of Finance and the volumes of advisory questions.</p>
12.	<p>12. Providing consultation to state administration bodies within the framework of the methodical support for procurement processes</p> <p><u><i>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</i></u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Concept Paper approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 977-L of 25 August 2022.</p> <p>The objective of the action is the following: Ministry of Finance will continue to provide methodical support, focusing on the provision of consultation, particularly in case of processes of strategic significance. The processes within which the head or deputy of the body submits an application to the Ministry for support are deemed to be strategic.</p>

	<p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Methodical support is mainly conducted by providing clarifications on the questions.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Finance will continue to provide methodical support through consultation. However, the implementation of the function of providing consultation must not lead to the direct involvement of the Ministry of Finance in procurement planning, holding a tender or contract management, as it will undermine the independence of state administration bodies leading to loss of capacities and a deterioration in the quality of decisions made. The Ministry of Finance will have an advisory role, but the decision to follow the advice provided by the latter, the proper organisation of the procurement process accordingly and the results will remain within the scope of the responsibility of the contracting authorities. At the same time, the Ministry will follow the systemic issues emerging during the processes of strategic significance and will offer relevant solutions.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>As a result of the increased access to information for customers, increased speed of decision-making, much higher manageability of the procurement process.</p>
13.	<p>13. Reducing the risks of improper execution of procurement contracts</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Concept Paper approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 977-L of 25 August 2022.</p> <p>The objective of the action is to establish, as much as possible, a functional system that ensures the continuity of satisfying needs, based on the non-discretionary standards for the bidders.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>During the tender stage, the circumstance of workload of the bidders is not assessed, and the same conditions related to participation are defined for all bidders.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>Introduction of a system for rating bidders based on non-discretionary standards as a result of the examination of improper cases of procurement contracts and excluding workload</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Availability of a system for rating bidders based on non-discretionary standards and excluding workload.</p>

14.	<p>14. Defining the vision and the roadmap of the institutional transformation of the Internal Audit System</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 1 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The necessity of the implementation of the action stems from the fulfilment of assignment issued by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of improving the Internal Audit System and is aimed at implementing institutional transformation of the system based on the vision approved by the Government.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The issues of the Internal Audit System are identified, the initial analysis whereof shows that the issues are mainly conditioned by the institutional mechanism of the system and insufficient capacities of persons involved in the process.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>Defining a vision for internal audit based on the selection between centralised and decentralised, outsourcing and systemic alternatives for building internal capacities. Implementing actions of institutional transformation aimed at the establishment of an active Internal Audit System based on the roadmap.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Effectively operating Internal Audit System.</p>
15.	<p>15. Action "Cutting down the tax privileges with low effectiveness and no addressability"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 3 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of reducing tax privileges with low effectiveness and no addressability.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, there are a number of tax privileges, in conditions of the application whereof, the fact of manageability of the scope of predetermined beneficiaries is mostly lacking, conditioned whereby it is also impossible to ensure the compatibility of the benefits received by beneficiaries and losses incurred by the state as a result of applying the privileges.</p>

	<p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages elaborating a draft Law on reducing tax privileges with low effectiveness and no addressability and submitting for consideration of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The expected outcome from the implementation of the action is the reduction of tax privileges with sufficient addressability and no effectiveness.</p>
16.	<p>16. Action "Setting comparable and fair tax burden between different taxation systems"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 4 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of setting comparable and fair tax burden between different taxation systems.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, there are a number of cases when the economic operators artificially fit into lower-level taxation systems for the purpose of evading payment of taxes, besides there are cases when the implementation of artificial transactions between different taxation systems cause risks of disrupting the integrity of tax planning and the chain of documentation of transactions.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages elaborating a draft Law on setting comparable and fair tax burden between different taxation systems and submitting for consideration of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, it is expected to ensure fair and equal allocation of tax burden in the Taxation System, and reduce the risks of artificially fitting into the lower-level taxation systems, evading payment of taxes in this way and undermining the integrity of the chain of tax planning and documenting of transactions through the implementation of artificial transactions between different taxation systems.</p>
17.	<p>17. Action "Cancelling the VAT with respect to the transactions of import of goods by VAT payers"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 2 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N</p>

	<p>743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of cancelling the VAT with respect to the transactions of import of goods by VAT payers.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, VAT is being charged with regard to the transactions of import of goods by VAT payers, which sometimes causes difficulties to the latter related to the provision of free working capitals.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages elaborating a draft Law on cancelling VAT with regard to the transactions of import of goods by VAT payers and submitting for consideration of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of forming favourable entrepreneurial environment through forming additional resources for the VAT payers.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The expected outcomes from the implementation of the action are cancellation of VAT with regard to the transactions of import of goods by VAT payers and formation of favourable entrepreneurial environment through forming additional resources for the VAT payers.</p>
18.	<p>18. Action "Reviewing the taxation regulations for the purpose of developing the capital market"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 5 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of reviewing the tax regulations hindering the development of capital market.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, there are some regulations related to the taxation of transactions made in the capital market, conditioned whereby the predictability of tax regulations applicable to incomes received from securities and corporate profit is decreasing for potential issuers and investors to some extent.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>It is envisaged to elaborate a draft Law on long-term policy with respect to the total burden of taxation of income tax and profit tax for dividends and interest incomes and submit for consideration of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of increasing the predictability of tax regulations applicable to the incomes received from securities and corporate profit for potential issuers and investors.</p>

	<p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Outcomes expected from the implementation of the action are reviewing the tax regulations hindering the development of capital market and provision of predictability of tax incentives to enter the capital market.</p>
19.	<p>19. Action "Introducing a system of declaration of incomes operating on the basis of economic motives"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 7 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of introducing Income Declaration System operating based on economic motives.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Conditioned by the introduction of fixed rates of income tax in the Republic of Armenia from 1 January 2020, certain progressiveness of the Income Tax System has eliminated, in essence. Meanwhile, currently there are incomes received by natural persons subject to taxation, however, not taxed actually due to the tax agent and the absence of relevant active mechanisms, which undermines the principles of tax equality and justice.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages elaborating a draft Law on introducing Income Declaration System operating based on economic motives and submitting for consideration of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The expected outcomes from the implementation of the action are the introduction of the system of "social credits" through applying the income declaration system, for the purpose of providing natural persons with the opportunity to reduce the expenses — incurred and substantiated by documents as prescribed for the purpose of settling specifically social, educational , healthcare and (or) housing provision issues — for the purpose of taxing from the taxation base, thereby giving progressiveness to the taxation system of incomes of natural persons, as well as improving and modernising the procedures for taxation of incomes of natural persons.</p>
20.	<p>20. Action "Increasing excise tax rates"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 743-L of 11</p>

	<p>June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the fact that the Government has been implementing a policy of reducing business taxes and increasing consumption taxes instead. On the other hand, in the Eurasian Economic Union, a continuous process of harmonisation of rates for certain products subject to excise tax (tobacco products, alcoholic beverages) is underway, within the context of which an increase in excise tax rates is also assumed. In addition, the increase in excise tax rates is also consistent with the targets for increasing the tax/GDP ratio to at least 25 percent during the programme period announced by the Government.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The schedule for increasing excise tax rates established by the Tax Code expires in 1 January 2024, and it is necessary to define a new schedule for revising these rates. The latter is also important from the point of view of creating a predictable tax environment for economic entities that produce and import goods subject to excise tax. On the other hand, the problem is that currently only fixed rates of excise tax are applied, which means that in case of inflation phenomena and increase of average salaries from year to year in the price structure of goods subject to excise tax, in other conditions being equal, the specific weight of excise tax decreases.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The above-mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages to elaborate a draft law aimed at increasing excise tax rates and submit it to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration, as well as to discuss the appropriateness of expanding the list of goods subject to excise tax.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>It is expected from the implementation of the action to provide additional tax revenues to the State Budget by increasing excise tax rates.</p>
21.	<p>21. Action "Continuous improvement of the system of turnover tax and micro-entrepreneurship "</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 4 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of setting a comparable and fair tax burden between the turnover tax system and the general taxation system. At the same time, the implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of removing some types of activities from the micro-enterprise taxation system.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p>

	<p>Currently, there are a number of cases when taxpayers artificially fit into the turnover tax system due to a low tax burden, as well as there are some types of activities, the inclusion of which in the micro-enterprise preferential system does not derive from the general targets for introducing the micro-enterprise taxation system.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages to study the possibilities of increasing the tax burden in the turnover tax system, as well as removing some types of activities from the micro-enterprise system and, where necessary, to submit the relevant draft Law to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, it is expected to ensure fair and equal distribution of the tax burden in taxation systems, and reduce the risks of being artificially fitted into the lower-level tax systems and thereby evading payment of taxes</p>
22.	<p>22. Action "Expanding the geography of agreements ruling out double taxation"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 10 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, quite active works and discussions are being carried out by various international organisations (particularly the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and associations aimed at clarifying the regulations concerning international trade, forming relevant regulations for protection of taxation bases formed in different states, introducing Uniform Information Exchange Systems concerning the taxation bases.</p> <p>The problem is that a necessity has arisen to intensify the involvement of the Republic of Armenia in international tax relations more and expand geography of agreements ruling out double taxation.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>For the purpose of settling the above-mentioned issue, it is recommended to carry out active works aimed at expanding and modernising the network of agreements ruling out double taxation.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, it is expected to ensure the involvement of the Republic of Armenia in international tax relations and expand</p>

	the geography of agreements ruling out the double taxation.
23.	<p>23. Action "Elaborating a programme for the management of tax incomes"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of having a Comprehensive Tax Income Management Programme ensuring the increase of taxes/GDP ratio.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, actions ensuring the increase in tax incomes are defined by different documents (2019-2023 Reform Strategy of the Public Financial Management System, Tax Reform Concept Paper, Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1455-L of 30 December 2020 "On approving the actions aimed at reducing the gap of tax policy".</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages revising in compliance with the programme provisions enshrined by the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and re-submit the actions ensuring the increase in tax incomes approved by different documents, as well as combining them in one document.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Expected outcome from the implementation of the action is to define the actions ensuring the increase in Taxes/GDP ratio within the course of coming years.</p>
24.	<p>24. Action "Elaborating programme aimed at increasing the effectiveness of tax expenditures"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of increasing the effectiveness of tax expenditures.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, there are quite a wide range of tax privileges, as a result of which large tax expenditures are incurred. The problem is that since the granting of</p>

	<p>such tax privileges, the addressability and effectiveness of their application have not been assessed. Therefore, it is necessary to determine the appropriateness of further application of such tax privileges, including from the point of view of the comparability of the benefits received by the beneficiaries and the losses incurred by the state as a result of the application of the privileges.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>It is envisaged to elaborate a draft programme aimed at increasing the effectiveness of tax expenditures and submit it to the Government of the Republic of Armenia for consideration, within the framework of which the possibilities of reducing the existing range of tax expenditures and increasing the tax potential due to it will be discussed.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Expected outcome from the implementation of the action is increasing effectiveness of tax expenditures and enhancing the tax potential.</p>
25.	<p>25. Action "Preparing consolidated financial statements of the Republic of Armenia, as a single unit"</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 1 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of preparing consolidated financial statements of the Republic of Armenia as a single unit.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>In accordance with part 2 of Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On accounting of public sector organisations", the ministries, as supervising organisations, must prepare consolidated financial statements for the 2023 accounting year and further years, where through, it will be possible to receive information on sector-specific assets, obligations and financial results.</p> <p>At the same time, the mentioned statements will serve as a basis for preparing financial statements of an economic unit of the Republic of Armenia for the 2024 accounting year and further years.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>For the purpose of preparing consolidated financial statements at the level of ministries and state, a necessity has arisen to elaborate or acquire relevant unified accounting software. Moreover, the software will be a separate module of the Government Financial Management Information System (GFMS).</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p>

	<p>The expected outcomes from the implementation of the action are availability of software necessary for consolidating financial statements at the state level, as well as preparation of consolidated financial statements.</p>
26.	<p><u>26. Automating the processes related to the management of the state finances at various levels of management and ensuring the effectiveness and transparency of the transactions (introducing Government Financial Management Information System (GFMIS))</u></p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 1 of Section "6.10 State Expenditure" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", 2019-2023 Public Finance Management System Reform Strategy (PFMSR), Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>Particular importance is attached to the activities of completely introducing the Government Financial Management Information System (GFMIS) in the process of carrying out reforms in the Public Financial Management System. The introduction of GFMIS is generally aimed at assisting the increase in reforms of public sector and functions of record-registration and accountability of financial system, as well as effectiveness, quality and transparency of public service provision through combining and mutually integrating the complete financial information of organisations of the public sector.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>For the purpose of assisting the preparation activities of creating and introducing GFMIS</p> <p>the consulting organisation, selected as a result of the tender organised within the scope of grant TF 012529 provided at the expense of funds of the "Trust Fund" of the Government of the Russian Federation by the World Bank, has elaborated a detailed financial and functional specification of GFMIS and the detailed calculation of necessary financial resources carried out based thereon, and submitted to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Within the scope of the above-mentioned, for the purpose of assisting the preparatory works of establishing and introducing GFMIS, the consulting organisation selected as a result of the tender organised within the scope of grant TF 012529 provided at the expense of funds of the "Trust Fund" of the Government of the Russian Federation (RF), within the scope of the contract concluded, money services are provided. For the purpose of accepting the results of the provided services, discussions are held in the Ministry, and in addition to the available resources, an attempt is made by the Ministry to also involve experts from some international organisations in the mentioned process. Taking into account the mentioned factors, the schedule provided for by the contract has undergone certain amendments.</p> <p><u>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>Within the scope of the actions, it is envisaged to review and finalise the tender documents within the scope of the GFMIS programme. Drawing up the complete package of documents for the implementation of the GFMIS tender will be carried out, the tender will be implemented. Experimental testing of the system will be performed (experimental conversion and migration of data). Groups using the GFMIS will be formed, programme and schedule of instructions</p>

	<p>will be drawn up, and instruction of GFMS users will be carried out.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>GFMS will provide the opportunity to effectively make decisions at all levels of the public sector, improve the processes of financial planning and management through timely registration and submission of information and statements.</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, it will be possible to fully automate and integrate the processes of public financial management (hereinafter referred to as "PFM") at all levels of state administration, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) increase the effectiveness of using state funds; (2) improve the budget processes through drawing up state budget based on programmes; (3) reinforce internal supervision; (4) increase the quality of financial statements particularly with regard to government assets and liabilities; (5) improve the processes of payments and procurements, etc.
27.	<p><u>27. Improving the efficiency of management of fiscal risks arising from the activities of companies with state participation</u></p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The necessity for managing fiscal risks arising from companies with state participation stems derives from the requirement to assess potential risks related to the activities of the latter and potential impact on public finances and include them in budget documents. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies concluded with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Fiscal Risk Management Department, with the technical support of the IMF, must develop a concept paper management of fiscal risks arising from companies with state participation, as well as a recommendation for a draft decision of the Government summarising the requirements for the viability (accountability deriving therefrom) of strategic companies.</p> <p>The objective of the action is improving the toolkit for assessment and containment of fiscal risks arising from companies with state participation.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>In the budget documents published by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, the section "ASSESSMENT OF FISCAL RISKS RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER SECTORS" is currently published, in which the assessment of fiscal risks arising from companies with state participation takes is included. However, there are issues related to the transparency and accountability of the activities of companies with state participation, the improvement of which will allow proper assessment of fiscal risks related to the activities of the mentioned companies and integration thereof in budget documents.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying requirements for accountability of companies with state participation and submitting draft decision of relevant government; • Improving models for assessing fiscal risks arising from companies with state participation. <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Improving models for assessing fiscal risks arising from companies with state participation</p>
28.	<p>28. Improving the efficiency of assessment of fiscal risks arising from the public-private partnership (PPP) contracts</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The necessity for managing fiscal risks arising from PPP contracts derives from the requirement to identify the contingent and direct obligations by the Government related to the partnership implemented in the mentioned format and assess the potential impact on public finances. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies concluded with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it is necessary to improve the transparency of partnerships in PPP format, including the assessment of fiscal risks.</p> <p><i>The objective of the action</i> is improving assessment of the contingent and direct obligations arising from effective and newly considered PPP contracts</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>In the budget documents published by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, the section "ASSESSMENT OF FISCAL RISKS RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER SECTORS" is currently published, in which analysis of the contingent obligations arising from the contracts in the format of public-private partnership (PPP) is included. However, the analysis of contracts and the assessment of potential contingent obligations need improvement by in-depth study of contracts and by improvement of the assessment of the probability of fulfilment of the contingent obligations of possible shock situations.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In-depth study of effective contracts in the format of PPP; o Improving modelling for assessing the probabilities occurrence of contractual obligations and impacts of macroeconomic and other factors. <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Improving models for assessing fiscal risks arising from PPP contracts</p>
29.	<p>29. Improving the efficiency of assessment of fiscal risks arising from the financial system</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The necessity for managing fiscal risks arising from the financial sector derives from the requirement to assess systemic and specific risks in the financial</p>

	<p>sector, as well as the potential impact on public finances of the contingent obligations assumed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia under part 1 of Article 44 of the Law "On cumulative Pensions".</p> <p><i>The objective of the action</i> is improving the efficiency of assessment of fiscal risks arising from the financial sector, as well as expanding co-operation with other state agencies in the mentioned context.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>In the budget documents published by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, the section "ASSESSMENT OF FISCAL RISKS RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANISATIONS OPERATING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER SECTORS" is currently published, in which the analysis of fiscal risks arising from the financial system is included. However, the mentioned part is mainly based on observations and facts in the "financial stability report" published by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia. It is necessary to expand co-operation with other state agencies and assess the impact of potential risks arising from the financial sector on public finances.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clarifying ways of potential impact of risks arising from the financial sector on public finances; o Expanding co-operation with other state agencies; o Conducting stress tests related to financial stability and assessing the impact on public finances. <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Improving assessment of fiscal risks arising from the financial sector.</p>
30.	<p>30. Improving assessment of risks related to long-term fiscal sustainability</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The necessity for assessing fiscal risks related to long-term fiscal sustainability derives from the logic of fiscal policy aimed at long-term sustainable economic growth, identification of potential sources of threats to fiscal sustainability, as well as identification of potential impact on public finances.</p> <p>The objective of the action is defining, assessing long-term fiscal sustainability and carrying out activities aimed at modelling in the direction of the latter.</p> <p><u>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The Fiscal Transparency Code published by the International Monetary Fund states that in the context of management of fiscal risks the governments must regularly publish long-term public finance forecasts (at the base level for a 10-year horizon, and more advanced governments — for a time horizon exceeding 30 years), as well conduct an assessment of the impacts of macroeconomic, climatic and demographic factors in the mentioned horizon. There are no forecasts with the time horizon mentioned in the budget documents of the Republic of Armenia.</p>

	<p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining long-term fiscal sustainability; • Assessing long-term fiscal sustainability; • Developing long-term fiscal forecasting models and performing scenario analyses. <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Obtaining an assessment of long-term fiscal sustainability.</p>
31.	<p>31. Assessment of the tax potential of the Republic of Armenia and identification of mid-term taxation opportunities</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages increasing the tax/GDP ratio to 25% by 2026, which requires the implementation of both legislative reforms and improvements in tax administration. With regard to the latter it is necessary to have clear assessments of the tax gap (the amount of deviation from the potential level of the actual tax revenues), which will enable to plan the pace of improvement of the tax/GDP ratio. It is important that the results of the assessment are acceptable to all interested agencies, which will contribute to increasing the efficiency of their application in policy development.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>Currently, assessments of tax potential and gaps are conducted both by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia and the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia. However the assessments of the latter differ substantially which makes it necessary to develop a unified methodology and a joint assessment based on it, the results of which will be acceptable to all interested agencies.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>It is envisaged to establish an inter-agency working group (with the participation of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia and the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia), which will regularly study the existing approaches to the tax potential and gap assessment and will form an acceptable assessment methodology, through which it will be possible to regularly conduct tax potential and gap assessments.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, it will be possible to have a methodology of assessment of tax potential level and gap acceptable to all interested agencies of the Republic of Armenia, and regularly conducted assessments, the results of which will be used in mid-term and short-term forecasts of tax revenues and tax/GDP indicators. Importance is attached to the latter in terms of ensuring the 2026 tax/GDP target envisaged by the Programme of</p>

	the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
32.	<p>32. Assessment of optimal thresholds of the debt of the Government, including the optimal share of domestic debt</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: paragraphs 1 and 3 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of ensuring the stability of the state debt in the conditions of changing economic fundamentals, as well as by the necessity of ensuring the process of improving the debt structure by increasing the minimum costs and risks (including for financial intermediation and economic growth).</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The current thresholds set for the debt of the Government of the Republic of Armenia are based on the analyses and assessments carried out with the technical assistance of the IMF within the framework of the modernisation of the fiscal rules in 2017-2018, setting thresholds of 40, 50 and 60% of the debt of the Government/GDP ratio. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the 44-day war, as well as the effects borne by the world and economy of the Republic of Armenia as a result of the events going on in Ukraine in 2022 have brought about changes in economic fundamentals, which causes the necessity to conduct new assessments of safe debt thresholds.</p> <p>At the same time, new assessments are necessary for further optimisation of the debt structure. Thus, as of the end of December 2021, the weights of foreign and foreign currency debt in the debt of the Government of the Republic of Armenia constituted about 71%, which is highly appreciated both by the standards set by international organisations and by the diagnosis made for the Republic of Armenia. 2023-2025 Debt Management Strategic Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia is aimed at increasing the weight of the domestic debt, but this, in its turn, may lead to an increase in interest costs and create risks of crowding out lending to the private sector.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages to carry out analysis of the stability of the debt of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, assess the safe levels of debt in line with international best practices, as well as to identify the optimal level of the domestic debt share. As a result thereof, target indicators of the debt of the Government and its structure will be formed, which will be expressed in the mid-term fiscal forecasts and debt management benchmarks of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The expected outcome from the implementation of the action are ensuring the harmony of the financing process of cost initiatives provided for by the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the integrity of fiscal sustainability, strengthening the sustainability of the debt of the</p>

	Government in the mid-term and long-term sectors and developing the financial market by ensuring improvement of the assessment of sovereign risk of the Republic of Armenia and conditions for providing loans to the Republic of Armenia, uninterrupted increase of domestic financial intermediation and further activation of the corporate securities market through the development of the market of state bonds and strengthening of the market benchmark.
33.	<p>33. Expanding toolkit for the domestic state debt</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: the 2023-2025 Debt Management Strategic Programme of the Government.</p> <p>The objective of the action is improving the composition and structure of the domestic debt market, as well as the process of re-financing risk management, through the application of new tools.</p> <p><u>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</u></p> <p>The Debt Management Strategic Programme of the Government stipulates the increase in the liquidity of state treasury bonds as a target for domestic state debt management. In order to achieve that objective, it is necessary to implement the consolidation of the state treasury bonds in circulation, offer new tools to the market, expanding the range of investors, as well as to provide additional toolkit for the implementation of the process of re-financing risk management through the organisation of exchange auctions.</p> <p>The increase in the share of internal borrowed net funds compared to external borrowed net funds in the sources of financing the state budget deficit is aimed at reducing the exchange rate risk, as well as creating grounds for the application of new tools (floating, indexed, etc.) in the financial market and for further deepening of the market.</p> <p><u>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</u></p> <p>Issuing state treasury bonds indexed by inflation.</p> <p><u>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The expected outcome of this action is to promote the liquidity of state treasury bonds and to increase the efficiency of the process of re-financing risk management, and the issuance of new inflation-linked bonds will make it possible to assess the inflation expectations of the participants of the domestic state debt market.</p>
34.	<p>34. Reviewing the current regulations prescribed by the legislation of the gambling sector, increasing the efficiency of the reform, including of accountability.</p> <p><u>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</u></p> <p>The objective of the action is defining regulations for the assessment of investments made as a condition for the licensing of casino activities in other places provided for by the Law “On games of chance, on-line games of chance and casinos”, increasing the transparency of public accountability of the</p>

	<p>organisations of the gambling sector.</p> <p><i>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</i></p> <p>No regulations for the assessment of investments made as a condition for the licensing of casino activities in other places provided for by the Law “On games of chance, on-line games of chance and casinos” are defined, increasing the transparency of public accountability of the 813 organisations of the gambling sector.</p> <p><i>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</i></p> <p>Review, revise the current regulations, as well as elaborate secondary legislation acts which will define the above-mentioned regulations.</p> <p><i>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Regulations will be defined within the framework of the methodology for the assessment of investments made in the Republic of Armenia, ensuring the transparency of the public accountability of the 813 organisations of the gambling sector.</p>
35.	<p>35. Action "Reviewing the tax regulations for the purpose of developing the agricultural sector"</p> <p><i>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Grounds for the implementation of the action: point 9 of Section "6.8 Fiscal Policy" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 17 of Annex to the Law "On the structure and activities of the Government", Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 743-L of 11 June 2018 "On approving the Charter of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The implementation of the action is conditioned by the necessity of reviewing the tax regulations hindering the development of the sector of agriculture.</p> <p><i>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</i></p> <p>Currently, in case of acquiring agricultural goods from rural economies not deemed to be VAT payers by economic operators deemed to be VAT payers, the integrity of the chain of making offsets with regard to VAT is undermined, conditioned whereby distortions generate in the market.</p> <p><i>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</i></p> <p>The mentioned action of the Government of the Republic of Armenia envisages elaborating a draft Law on reviewing tax regulations hindering the development of the sector of agriculture and submitting for consideration of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p><i>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Reviewing tax regulations hindering the development of the sector of agriculture are the expected outcomes from the implementation of the action.</p>
36.	<p>36. Improving the quality of macroeconomic and fiscal short-term and medium-term forecasts</p>

36.1. Elaboration and implementation of Bayesian models in accordance with modern approaches in the system of short-term and medium-term forecasts of tax revenues according to major types of taxes

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity of the action is conditioned by the necessity for continuous improvement of the tax revenue forecasting system and the inclusion of modern methods. The action is aimed at improving the quality of tax revenue forecasts by strengthening the forecasting toolkit with a more complex structure and models that take expert judgements into account more efficiently. The latter must be elaborated both at the level of the total tax revenue and at the level of individual taxes (at least VAT and income tax) and ensure a minimum level of forecasting errors.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The toolkit for forecasting tax revenues available within the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia currently consists of one equation forecasting the total level of tax revenues and the amount of individual taxes (value added tax, income tax, profit tax, excise tax), as well as vector-autoregression models. At the same time, the international experience of macroeconomic forecasts suggests that the Bayesian models can have quite high efficiency, which differ from the tools currently available within the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia on the reason that during the forecasts made with the latter, it is possible to introduce the existing preliminary information into the model, as a result of which the quality of the forecasts increases. Preliminary experiments of forecasting with the data of the Republic of Armenia with these types of models also show that they provide a significant improvement in accuracy of forecasting.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is planned to elaborate and supplement the tax revenue forecasting system with Bayesian autoregressive models.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the action, the toolkit of macroeconomic forecasts of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia will be supplemented with Bayesian vector autoregression models, which will make it possible to increase the quality of tax revenue forecasts.

36.2 Elaboration and introduction of a semi-structural gap model (SSGM) for medium-term forecasting of macroeconomic indicators

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The action is aimed at improving the quality of medium-term macroeconomic forecasts and ensuring harmony between the forecasts of individual indicators. Macroeconomic forecasts have a key role in the process of forming the macro-fiscal framework of the state budget, reliable and more accurately implemented macroeconomic forecasts increase the addressability of the fiscal policy, make it possible to assess macro-fiscal risks and opportunities, contributing to ensuring macroeconomic sustainability, as well as increasing the efficiency of management of public finances.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

	<p>Forecasts of various macroeconomic indicators are carried out using separate modern econometric models, which results in quality forecasts of individual macroeconomic indicators, but to ensure their comparability and harmony, it is necessary to carry out additional work. In addition, econometric methods are more effective for short-term forecasting. Now, the Forecast and Policy Analysis System (FPAS) of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia is replenished with Ararat Fiscal Strategy Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (hereinafter referred to as "the AFSM DSGE"), which provides an opportunity to comprehensively analyse and evaluate the effects of different policies (fiscal, monetary, economic), as well as individual measures and endogenous shocks. However, in order to ensure the integrity of the forecasting system, it is also necessary to elaborate and introduce a semi-structural gap model (SSGM), which will provide an opportunity to ensure the comparability and harmony of the forecast macroeconomic indicators, as well as to have quality medium-term forecasts.</p> <p><i>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</i></p> <p>Introduction of the Quarterly Projection Model (QPM) of macroeconomic indicators will provide an opportunity to have a single system of forecasts, which will ensure the harmony of forecasts and will enable to carry out medium-term forecasts in a more efficient way.</p> <p><i>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</i></p> <p>Availability of Quarterly Projection Model (QPM) in the toolkit of macroeconomic forecasts, which will provide an improved and comprehensive macroeconomic forecasting system.</p>
37.	<p>37. Organisation of the 2024 annual meeting and a business conference of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p> <p><i>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</i></p> <p>Organisation of a world-class financial event, raising the international reputation of Armenia and the recognition of the country, revealing the investment opportunities of Armenia.</p> <p><i>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</i></p> <p>Upon Resolution of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development No 237 of 26 February 2021, Yerevan has been selected as the venue for holding the 2024 annual meeting. Taking into account that the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Armenia was appointed as the representative of the Republic of Armenia in the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 156-A of 13 February 2023, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia is the responsible body for organising the action.</p> <p><i>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</i></p> <p>Upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1408-A of 28 November 2022, a steering committee and a working group have been established, respectively, for the purpose of co-ordinating and implementing the organisational works of the annual meeting. In addition, it is envisaged to</p>

	engage a specialised event organiser for the purpose of organising the annual meeting and business conference.
	<u>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</u>
	Development of co-operation of Armenia with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, strengthening of international image of Armenia, expansion of the business environment and increase in the attractiveness of the investment environment for private sector companies.

Office of the Prime Minister	
NN	RATIONALE
1.	<p>1. IMPROVING THE TOOLKIT FOR ENSURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF ELABORATION OF THE POLICIES</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Upon the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government has decided to improve the mechanisms for involvement and provision of the public in the process of elaboration of policies. This obligation is also stipulated by the "Public Administration Reform" Strategy. This action will improve the existing mechanisms, regulations, which will contribute to the state-citizen co-operation in the process of elaboration of policies.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Despite the fact that a hybrid version of proactive engagement and passive communication approaches is implemented in terms of co-governance structures, public participation is fragmented and does not ensure effective engagement and participation in practice. Opportunities to effectively influence public decision-making are limited, and at the same time, those are mostly cultural and behavioural issues.</p> <p>The e-draft platform for discussion of draft legal acts, which is the most popular among the public, needs improvement. Some sections of the platform are hardly used, the statistical section has limited analytical information and toolkit, it is not possible to find analytical statistics on received recommendations on projects, conclusions by the state body and other content-wise important aspects.</p> <p>The lack of such gaps and incomplete mechanisms also leads to gaps in obtaining full public information, the urgency of monitoring. As a result, the culture of accountability and benevolence slows down in the state administration system.</p> <p>The above-mentioned gaps also have an impact on the fight against corruption, the transparency of economic and social activities, and the lack of trust of the public in government activities.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues:</p> <p>Reviewing participatory governance frameworks and toolkit, ensuring an open and inclusive decision-making process, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the review of public participation mechanisms, 3 dimensions will be considered — participation of citizens, professional and expert

	<p>community, involvement of beneficial owners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a primary task, analysing existing participatory tools, highlighting international best practices and identifying new solutions will be considered. - The core of participative governance reforms will be the creation of a participative governance unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, which will not have a mandate to hold comprehensive and vague discussions, but will assume the obligation of supporting, improving, monitoring, and creating a participative culture in the participative processes. - In the process of reforms, legal and procedural mechanisms for ensuring public participation in decision-making processes, including guidelines for ensuring participation will be elaborated. Interventions aimed at improving the functions and efficiency of electronic platforms, the Public Council, public councils operating adjunct to the ministers will be on the agenda. - In terms of the modernisation of participation mechanisms and tools, the culture of relying on non-online platforms will be pushed forward, taking into account that on-line platforms do not guarantee usefulness and efficiency. - In parallel, definition of monitoring indicators on public participation and periodic updating aimed at ensuring the quality of participatory governance will also be implemented. - An alternative evaluation mechanism for the effectiveness of state bodies and policies will also be introduced, involving representatives of the public and private sectors and thus increasing public control over state bodies. - In addition to virtual formats, in order to increase the efficiency of the public participation process, a physical space for public hearings and discussions will be formed. <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the full implementation of the action, it is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the toolkit for public participation in the policy-making process • form an institutional mechanism for participatory governance • address the importance of digital platforms and promote a culture of public hearings and discussions in public administration.
2.	<p>2. INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIFIED SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Upon the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government has adopted a unified system for strategic communication. As a result of the lack of a clear policy of information and strategic communication and gaps in institutional management, inadequate and inappropriate awareness-raising of the policies of the state is carried out, gaps are emerging in communication with society and different layers, which lead to uncontrollable risks in terms of</p>

communication security and the spread of information noise, manipulative information.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, in the conditions of absence of a unified policy of strategic communication, a necessity is arising to clarify the problems and goals of communication with the public and the media.

- Weak culture of public communication and awareness-raising of individual reforms;
- The most responsive behaviour in the sector of communication, in particular, the best reforms remain unclear to the public, and as a result of media manipulation, it is possible to generate a significant negative reaction;
- Communication of subjective or individual views by the state and state officials in public speech, messages given to the public and information transmission, where the person rather than the state institute is important;
- A weak institution of speech writers in the state system, this function is jointly performed by press spokesmen and relevant professional personnel;
- Lack of a culture of communication built on the basis of evaluations and behavioural observations of the likely response of the external audience, non-targeted use of communication tools, weak practice of researching facts and public opinion;
- Weak information co-ordination between different bodies and structural units in the sector of communication, duplication of powers and functions, lack of clarity and optimal division of work, weak co-operation between them and those responsible for policy.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Based on the existing situation, this action envisages:

- The core of the strategic communication system is not reactive, but proactive, establishing policies and institutions that ensure broad public participation and have effective mechanisms to fight against disinformation.
- In this regard, the priority will be the identification and formation of a central body that ensures co-ordination between different institutions in the Office of the Prime Minister, which will ensure the definition of common goals, messages of the communication of the state with the public, elaboration of programmes and quality control.
- The definition of the institutional architecture will be followed by the elaboration of programmes, including on effective communication of reforms, fight against disinformation, public communication in crisis situations.
- Active steps will also be taken to fight against disinformation, the core of which will be proactive awareness-raising of the public, increasing media literacy and effective use of fact-checking tools.

4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of a functional and institutional architecture for management of strategic communication • Development and implementation of strategic communication programmes • Strengthening capacities of public sector in strategic communication • "Implementing actions of the fight against disinformation."
3.	<p>3. INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITY OF THE INSPECTION SYSTEM</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for elaborating the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements" to the Law "On inspection bodies" stems from the necessity of creating relevant preconditions for the effective implementation of functions of supervision by inspection bodies, eliminating the existing legislative gaps, clarifying the regulations.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>According to the Law "On inspection bodies" (hereinafter referred to as "Law"), the competency to carry out state supervision over relevant sectors or parts of the sector is vested in the inspection bodies, which is their main function. The necessity of elaborating the draft is conditioned by the following main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the purpose of assessing, increasing the effectiveness of, continuously improving the activity of the Inspection System, as well as completely implementing the principles prescribed by law and jointly developing the Inspection System, the Law envisages a Quality Assurance System, prescribing the legal grounds for the activity of the Quality Assurance Subdivision. The regulations prescribed by the law in effect regarding the appointment of employees of the subdivision, powers of the head and organisational subordination, do not provide necessary and sufficient legal tools to the Quality Assurance Subdivision for proper implementation of the tasks set before it by the law. - Practically, sometimes in case of absence from the sittings of the Board or failure to vote in sittings of the Board by the Minister or Deputy Minister appointed as a member in the composition of the Management Board of the Inspection Body, the activity of the Board, in essence, is dissolved, and the law in effect does not envisage regulations for such situations. There are numerous gaps in the working orders of the boards, the organisation and conduct of meetings, in legal relations concerning the organisation and conduct of sittings, including conducting and voting in remote sittings. It is also necessary to clarify the scope of powers of the management boards, legal relations concerning the appointment and dismissal of the heads and deputies of the inspection bodies. - Taking into consideration the issues of accessibility to databases, which is not regulated by the law in effect, it is envisaged to enshrine a provision to the effect that the Office for Co-ordination of Activities of Inspection Bodies may receive gratuitous and free accessibility to all paper and electronic information databases and systems, information and documents of other bodies of the State Administration System, which are necessary for the implementation of supervisory tasks and functions vested in the Inspection Bodies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In case of declaring a state of emergency, expanding powers of supervision in the existing legislative framework and ensuring legal powers of quick response for uninterrupted implementation of the actions implemented for the purpose of ensuring proper supervision over the compliance with the requirements of laws and other legal acts and settling the issues already identified in practice during that period. <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The elaboration of the Draft is aimed at improving the legal grounds for carrying out proper supervision by the inspection bodies, including ensuring proper supervision over compliance with the requirements of laws and other legal acts in case of declaring a state of emergency in the Republic of Armenia, elimination of existing legislative gaps, ensuring proper implementation of the quality assurance function of inspection bodies, clarification of powers, envisaging regulations necessary for ensuring regular activity of the Management Board of inspection bodies.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the action, it is expected to fill in the legislative gaps: ensuring proper supervision over the compliance with the requirements of laws and other legal acts in case of declaring a state of emergency in the Republic of Armenia and regulating the issues already identified in practice, the powers of Quality Assurance Subdivision, the Minister selected as a member in the composition of the Board, legal opportunity of terminating the membership of Deputy Ministers, licenses of carrying out supervision over the compliance with the conditions of activity subject to licensing, notification or obtaining permission by natural and legal persons and licenses to the competent bodies based thereon, the right to engage in activity subject to notification, the powers of terminating, repealing the permission or filing motions on suspending the effectiveness thereof will be clarified for the purpose of ensuring the proper implementation of tasks of the Quality Assurance Subdivision, the provisions on the procedure for nominating and appointing candidates for the position of the Deputy Head of the Inspection Body will be clarified, regulations ensuring the regular activity of the management board of inspection bodies, the powers thereof etc. will be envisaged.</p>
4.	<p>4. SIMPLIFYING THE ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES AND CLARIFYING THE MEASURES OF LIABILITY</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity of elaborating the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On administrative offences" stems from the necessity of creating relevant preconditions for ensuring the regular activity of Inspection Bodies, clarifying the scope of bodies investigating the offences envisaged by the Code and administrative offences, as well as carrying out proper supervision for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements prescribed by the legislation and ensuring safety in the sectors of supervision of Inspection Bodies.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Law "On bodies of state administration system" entered into force on 9 April 2018, which has formed the system of inspection bodies. In accordance with the mentioned Law, as well as the Law HO-267-N "On making amendments and supplements" to the Law "On inspection bodies", the inspection bodies are bodies subordinate to the Government carrying out supervision and other functions prescribed by law in a certain sector, which impose measures of liability prescribed by law for violating the requirements of the laws of the Republic of Armenia, legal acts regulating the relations of relevant sector, by</p>

	<p>acting on behalf of the Republic of Armenia. Whereas, the Code on Administrative Offences currently preserves the names of bodies previously carrying out supervision over relevant sectors and imposing measures of liability for administrative offences provided for by that Code.</p> <p>The practice of healthcare and labour, food safety, and market control inspection bodies shows that the amount of administrative fine for some offences provided for by the code in effect is not enough to ensure the prevention of those offences. They are also in some cases so low that business entities prefer to pay the fine rather than eliminate the offence. Based on the sectoral features of the activities of the inspection body, a necessity has arisen to review the range of officials authorised to investigate cases of administrative offences and impose administrative fines on behalf of the inspection body.</p> <p>Article 182.1 of the Code on Administrative Offences envisages administrative liability for hindering the activities of state bodies conducting inspections, and different articles of the Code envisage administrative liability for hindering the conduct of inspections of separate inspection bodies. At the same time, the Code envisages administrative liability — in case of certain inspection bodies — for failing to fulfil the assignment of those inspection bodies, and for some — not. In this regard, to ensure a common approach for all the inspection bodies and to avoid unsubstantiated duplications in the Code a necessity is arising to envisage administrative liability with the same corpus delicti for hindering the conduct of inspections of inspection bodies and failing to fulfil the assignment.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The elaboration of the Draft is aimed at defining by the Code on Administrative Offences that the body investigating cases on offences made in relevant sectors and/or defining the liability is the Inspection Body carrying out supervision over that sector, as well as clarifying the scope of officials having competence to investigate cases on administrative offences and impose administrative penalties on behalf of the Inspection Body, establishing measures of administrative liability for violating the requirements envisaged by the legislations on labour, healthcare, food safety, at the same time, envisaging warning as a type of administrative penalty for certain offences based on degree of danger of certain administrative offences and the necessity of effectively applying the principle of justice, and in some cases has reviewed the amount of fine envisaged, provided for a uniform regulation for hindering the inspections of the inspection bodies and failing to complete the assignments.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the action, it is expected that the inspection bodies will be provided with the opportunity to implement the functions vested therein, ensuring the compliance with the security and requirements of the legislation in relevant sectors of supervision. It is also expected to reduce the human and financial resources spent per administration, have measures of liability comparable with the significance of offence, by reducing double offences.</p>
5.	<p>5. INSPECTIONS THROUGH CLEAR PROCEDURES AIMED AT RAISING THE LEVEL OF SECURITY, PLANNED AND TARGETED ACCORDING TO RISKS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The elaboration of the Draft is conditioned by necessity of ensuring the implementation of proper state supervision by inspection bodies subordinate to the</p>

	<p>Government of the Republic of Armenia, which stems from part 1 of Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On inspection bodies".</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The elaboration of the draft stems from the necessity of creating preconditions for the effective implementation of supervising functions by the inspection bodies, eliminating existing legislative gaps, clarifying legislative regulations. Violations of mandatory requirements and conditions prescribed by legislation are often demonstrated by business entities, but in conditions of the absence of targeted and planned supervision, they may remain undetected by competent inspection bodies in practice. Violations often have a serious public danger, so their detection requires the presence of such control mechanisms that will ensure the targeted nature of control, which will significantly contribute to the prevention of publicly dangerous acts, while not interfering with the normal operation of business. The regulations in effect are outdated and often do not provide mechanisms for settling the issues through accurate planning, quick response, flexibility, as well as simple procedures.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is necessary to introduce a modern mechanism for carrying out flexible and active supervision over the legislative requirements and norms functioning in different sectors.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the action, the inspection bodies will have an opportunity to more accurately plan inspections and carry out risk assessment. Unscheduled inspections are expected to decrease. As a result of the action, the types of notifiable and non-notifiable inspections will be clarified. The inspections will be carried out as administration aimed at preventing violations, ensuring a safer environment.</p>
6.	<p>6. REGULATING AND CLARIFYING SUPERVISION OVER THE SECTORS OF FOOD, VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The main objective of elaborating the draft is the regulation of existing issues and legislative gaps of the food safety sector in the Republic of Armenia, as well as separation of functions of elaborating the policy and carrying out supervision.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The sector of food safety is regulated by the Law "On food safety", Law "On veterinary", Law "On phytosanitary", Law "On feed", and Law "On state supervision of food safety". The Food Safety Inspection Body is a body subordinate to the Government, exercising supervision, which aims at implementing supervisory and preventive actions over ensuring compliance with the requirements of safety and legislation in the above-mentioned sectors, as well as applying measures of liability as prescribed by law.</p> <p>Currently, the functions of bodies elaborating the policy and carrying out supervision are not clarified in the above-mentioned laws, which causes problems in practice both for the authorised body elaborating the policy, and the Inspection Body carrying out supervision. Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish</p>

	<p>those powers by making amendments in the mentioned laws, thus clarifying the functions.</p> <p>3. Objective of regulation</p> <p>Adoption of the Draft is aimed at ensuring the effectiveness of performing functions of the Food Safety Inspection Body carrying out supervision over the norms established in the field of food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary, eliminating the existing obstacles and separating functions of elaborating policy and carrying out supervision.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of elaborating the Draft, it is expected to improve the legislation of the food safety sector, ensuring the undisturbed implementation of supervision of the Inspection Body.</p>
7.	<p style="text-align: center;">7. SETTLING THE DISPUTABLE ISSUES OF FOOD SUPERVISION AND SAFETY</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>In accordance with part 2 of Article 27 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state supervision of food safety", the protocol issued by the national reference testing laboratory shall be deemed to be final in case of contesting the results of laboratory expertise. However, a national reference testing laboratory is not assigned and the legislative regulation of relations related to the assignment is missing.</p> <p>Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On establishing the procedures for assigning national reference testing laboratories in the sector of food safety" is conditioned by the requirement of part 1 of Article 28 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state supervision of food safety".</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In accordance with part 2 of Article 27 of the Law "On state supervision of food safety", the protocol issued by the national reference testing laboratory shall be deemed to be final in case of contesting the results of laboratory expertise. In accordance with part 2 of Article 30 of the same Law, part 2 of Article 27 of the Law enters into force from the moment of assigning national reference laboratory by the Government, but a national reference laboratory is not still assigned by the Government.</p> <p>As a result, in case of disagreeing with the laboratory examinations performed within the scope of supervision, the economic operator does not have the opportunity to dispute the results of that examination, which restricts the right of the economic operator to dispute in cases prescribed by law, as well as it is not possible for the Inspection Body to determine the safety of imported or sold food.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On establishing the procedures for assigning national reference testing laboratories in the sector of food safety" establishes the procedure for assigning a national reference testing laboratory in the field of food safety.</p>

	<p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will create a legal ground for assigning a reference testing laboratory in the sector of food safety, which is highly important from the perspective of developing reliable and established quality infrastructures.</p>
8.	<p>8. INCREASING THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introduction of electronic platform for signing employment contracts is aimed at improving the system for protection of employment rights. It will enable the employers to have employment contracts meeting the requirements of hiring provided for by the legislation, and the inspection body will be able to more effectively supervise the hiring process of employees by employers.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The law-enforcement practice shows that very often employers do not provide employees with a copy of an individual legal act on hiring or employment contract, which later makes the implementation of employment rights of employees difficult, and sometimes even impossible.</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of introducing an electronic platform for signing employment contracts, the inspection body will have the opportunity to ensure proper supervision over the right to employment with more optimal resources.</p> <p>Ground: sub-point 6 of point 4.6 of the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia</p>
9.	<p>9. OPERATIONALLY IMPLEMENTING SUPERVISION OVER THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATIONS, PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Paragraph 17 of point 4.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia: The healthcare institutions involved in the management of and control over epidemiological situations, the prevention and maintenance of communicable diseases will be strengthened and modernised both in marzes and in Yerevan."</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Before the establishment of the healthcare and labour inspection body (Decision No 444-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia of 27 April 2017), the state healthcare inspectorate (whose supervisory functions were much less) consisted of 11 territorial centres and had about 450 employees. Currently, there are 5 territorial centres within the composition of the Inspection Body. Each territorial centre provides services to 2-3 marzes. The number of employees according to the staff list is 340. In this case, excessive time (on the road) and large finances for business trips are spent to carry out supervisory works. For instance, the Western Territorial Centre provides services to Armavir, Ararat and Aragatsotn marzes, the administrative building of</p>

	<p>which is located in the city of Artashat. Some settlements of Aragatsotn marz are more than 100 km away from the administrative building. In that case, it is impossible to carry out urgent cases in supervisory works (for instance, water outbreaks).</p> <p>3. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Increase in the effectiveness of supervision activities of the Inspection Body, effective use of time, financial savings.</p> <p>Ground: Article 7, Article 24 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On ensuring sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population of the Republic of Armenia"</p>
10.	<p>10. SUPERVISING AND ANALYSING THE ORGANISATION OF EDUCATION MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for elaborating the drafts of the Law "On state supervision of the field of education" and the Law "On making supplements to the Code of the Republic of Armenia on administrative offences" (hereinafter referred to as "Drafts") is conditioned by the necessity of carrying out legitimate and effective supervision within the scope of powers defined by Article 6 of the Law "On inspection bodies". The adoption of the legal act is aimed at regulating the legislative framework of the state supervision of the field of education.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the powers of the Inspection Body are enshrined by the statute of the Inspection Body and the Law "On inspection bodies", and the only legislative act regulating the process of carrying out supervision by the Inspection Body is the Law "On organising and conducting inspections in the Republic of Armenia". Whereas, the supervision in the field of education has features conditioned by peculiarities of this field, which need separate legislative regulation. Thus, the statute of inspection bodies envisages the implementation of supervision over the quality of education and increase in quality of education, as primary functions. Performance of the mentioned functions is not possible only through conducting inspections, since the toolkit provided for by the Law "On organising and conducting inspections in the Republic of Armenia" either does not comply with the supervision logic in this field, or does not envisage necessary resources for the effective implementation thereof. In particular, the proper supervision over the quality of education in educational institutions is not possible to be carried out only based on check-lists. Besides, the supervision of the quality of education requires implementation of actions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hearings of educational trainings through written tasks or tests and assessment of knowledge of students; - upon necessity, provision of methodological support developing the pedagogical-methodological capacities, professional knowledge, use of information and communication technologies to the teacher; - compilation of a description of teaching the given subject based on the average indicator of the results of hearings of educational trainings, assessment of knowledge of learners and surveys;

	<p>- conduct of surveys among learners and employees of educational institutions during inspection for the purpose of analysing the moral and psychological atmosphere or clarifying separate issues in educational institutions, etc.</p> <p>In such conditions, it is necessary to envisage such an administrative tool for the Inspection Body, which, taking into consideration the features of the field of education, will enable to ensure the implementation of effective supervision over the quality of education.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The implementation of proper supervision over the field of education will not be complete and full without the state of education, dynamics of change in education results, study and observation of conditions created for the implementation of educational activities, as well as the analysis of data on students and pedagogical staff, the implementation whereof must be continuous.</p> <p>The effective implementation of objectives of supervision in the field of education also requires conduct of inspections in state, territorial administration and local self-government bodies. In this regard, it should be noted that the Law "On the organisation and conduct of inspections in the Republic of Armenia" does not provide for legal regulation to carry out inspections in state and territorial administration bodies.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of adopting the drafts, legal relations related to the activity of the inspection body in the field of education will be regulated, creating necessary and sufficient legal preconditions for the regular supervision of the inspection body, as well as providing grounds for actions aimed at assessing and improving the education quality through the "paper check".</p>
11.	<p>11. TARGETED SUPERVISION OVER AND PROVISION OF SAFETY OF NON-FOOD PRODUCTS</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for adopting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On market surveillance" is conditioned by increasing the effectiveness of activity of the Market Surveillance Inspection Body (hereinafter referred to as MSIB) and filling in the legislative gaps. The draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On market surveillance" is aimed at defining the main principles, features of surveillance carried out in the sectors of ensuring safety of non-food product, as well as other relations related to the surveillance.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are gaps in the field of legislation regulating the activity of MSIB, which hinders the effective activity of the Inspection Body in some cases. Adoption of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On market surveillance" envisages settling the above-mentioned issues, as well as increasing the effectiveness of the MSIB activity.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Currently, MSIB is not vested with a number of important functions, which will provide the opportunity to realise the supervision toolkit more effectively,</p>

	<p>and adopting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On market surveillance" will vest MSIB with functions of suspending the sales of, recalling and eliminating the product non-compliant with the technical regulation.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the action, it is expected to ensure a higher level of compliance with technical regulations of non-food product through eliminating the legislative gaps, directing the supervision, first of all, to the correction of the source of violation.</p>
12.	<p>12. INCREASING THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF THE SREVICES PROVIDED IN THE SECTOR OF TRANSPORT</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The elaboration of the draft is conditioned by clarification of legal regulations in the sector of transport supervision, increase in effectiveness of transport, as well as bringing into compliance with legal regulations relating to the activity of Urban Development, Technical and Fire Safety Inspection Body.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are no clear and comprehensive regulations with regard to the supervision in the field of transport of the Republic of Armenia. Certain powers and functions are defined in different laws. However, the existing regulations are general and do not comply with the policy being completely implemented in the sector and the Statute of the Inspection Body. The supervision over, for instance, non-regular passenger transportations, cargo transportations is not possible to be carried out properly.</p> <p>That is, the international treaties and legislation stipulate such regulations; the supervision thereover is not possible to be properly carried out through current toolkit provided by the legislation. Those are restrictions on the traffic of heavy vehicles, requirement of existence of tachograph in vehicles carrying out interstate transportations, restriction of number of passengers while carrying out non-regular interstate passenger transportation, requirement concerning the placement of advertisement on the motor roads of general use, etc.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The draft recommends carrying out supervision in the field of transport in compliance with the legal regulations of one comprehensive law, by ensuring more effective, uninterrupted and regular operation of the supervision in the field of transport. It is envisaged to endow the Inspection Body with relevant toolkit, which will enable the latter to also carry out proper supervision over the regulations, which are not possible to be properly supervised with the current toolkit.</p> <p>In particular, the following is envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify the directions of supervision in the field of transport and the set of total requirements to be supervised; - Vest the authority to carry out supervision over the implementation of the legislation of railway transport in the Inspection Body carrying out supervision in the field of transport;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repeal the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the Transport Inspectorate". <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Adoption of the Draft will make the process of supervision in the field of transport clearer and more effective, as well as more predictable for citizens and economic operators.</p>
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Office of Deputy Prime Minister M. Grigoryan	
N/N	RATIONALE
	<p>1. PROVIDING STRATEGIC GROUNDS FOR SYSTEMATIC REFORMS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Upon the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government has adopted an ambitious agenda of institutional development aimed at carrying out in-depth reforms in a number of directions in the sector of public management. One of the key starting points of the agenda is the commission of adopting "Public Administration Reform Strategy by 2030". This action will formulate the strategic agenda for modernisation of state system and the roadmap of the implementation thereof through stage-by-stage transformation.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The state administration system in Armenia has so far undergone different stages of reforms since its formation in the 1990s, and a number of institutions of systematic significance have been formed. During 3 decades, a number of reforms have been carried out in the process of establishing and developing the administration system — from the formation of institutions of market economy and mechanisms to the introduction of electronic governance tools in line with modern requirements.</p> <p>Although the institutional grounds for public management system have been laid within the course of the 3 generations of reforms, there have been a number of achievements and positive developments in various directions, they continue to be segmented or local, refer to a specific sector or process, more often be of structural and re-organisational nature without in-depth qualitative and contextual progress, no technocratic elite and meritocratic systems have been formed, and most importantly, the effective, in-depth dialogue — to the extent necessary — with different representative layers of public on the mission and content of the administration system has not taken place.</p> <p>There have also been failures, loss of inheritance, interruptions and formation of politically expedient agendas on the way to reforming the state system, leaving a negative mark on the process of establishing effective state administration system and institutions guided by values of citizen-centred and democratic governance.</p> <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

It is recommended to adopt the "Public Administration Reform Strategy by 2030" until the end of the 3rd ten-day period of November 2021.

The Strategy sets out for the first time the agenda of unified and comprehensive public administration reforms in the country, aimed at addressing the issues identified as a result of in-depth diagnosis, re-formulating the value-related grounds of public administration system and ensuring the necessary institutional capacities of modernising the system through targeted actions of policy.

Accordingly, the Strategy addresses the issues of policy elaboration and co-ordination, services provided by the state to the public, public (civil) service and human resource management, modernisation of institutions, strategic communication and participatory governance as 4 directions — domains — of the Strategy.

The strategic domains are replenished with 3 horizontal domains — capacity building, innovation and digitisation, stable and resource efficient management.

4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the full implementation of the action, it is expected to:

- define the long-term vision and scope of reforms of the state system, roadmap for phased implementation, the outcome framework, system of monitoring and accountability;
- form the institutional mandate to co-ordinate public administration reforms and implementation capacities;
- ensure the resource package necessary for reforms of the state system

2. MODERNISING THE SYSTEM FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY ELABORATION

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

Section 6.1 "Strategic planning and elaboration of policies" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia defines clear commitments aimed at modernising the systems for strategic planning of the country and policy elaboration, forming and strengthening equivalent capacities.

The action will modernise the current strategic planning system in line with best international practice and through application of modern digital toolkits.

The action is mainly aimed at ensuring the fact-orientedness, result-orientedness and feasibility of policies being implemented by the state, through harmonisation of systems of strategic and financial planning, as well as cross-sectoral co-ordination of policies.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, a number of legal regulations define competencies and methodological criteria in the field of strategic planning and policy elaboration, however, the hierarchical relation between different strategic documents is indefinite in practice, there are weak capacities of effective strategic planning, the cross-sectoral interrelation, as well as the harmonisation of strategic documents, policies and programmes with the medium-term financial plan, budget process of the country are at a low level, and more importantly, there is an insufficient performance of implementing planned policies and strategic documents, the institutional

mechanisms providing policy implementation-planning feedback are missing. Non evidence-based approaches continue to prevail in the field of policy elaboration and strategic planning.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The integrated system of strategic planning will be formed within the scope of the action, a proper digital system will be introduced therefor, ensuring vertical and horizontal mutual agreement between different layers of planning and considerable optimisation of processes, adequate methodical guidelines and basic tools necessary in the planning process, programmes for instructing and training capacity-building in the sector of strategic planning and elaboration of public policy will be introduced.

4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The direct outcomes expected as a result of the action are as follows:

- Full vertical and cross-sectoral harmony between the national strategic objectives, outcomes and actions of the country, the scope established by strategic documents and financial planning, full mutual agreement according to objectives, actions and outcomes;
- Digitisation of processes of elaboration, monitoring and accountability of the documents of strategies, policy and other programmes, operation of unified system and processes of administration of credit, grant and technical assistance programmes implemented with the support of development partnership and international financial institutions, by ensuring compliance of the programmes and actions with the objectives and outcomes defined within the scope of the Strategy;
-
- Formation and continuous empowerment of personnel capacities of strategic planning, policy co-ordination and elaboration in state bodies.

3. MODERNISING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

In section 6.2 "Services provided by the state to the public" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government is aimed at transforming the quality of services provided by the state and communities to the public through advanced technology-based solutions, in addition to the citizen-centred and excessive administrative burden. The action will significantly improve the convenience of enjoying state and community services.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Although the state has made some efforts and resources over the years for carrying out reforms in the sector of the services provided by the state, in particular, for reducing the administrative burden and ensuring the accessibility thereof electronically, the country still lags far behind both the model and mechanisms for

providing services in line with the pace of digital transformation, modern life and public relations.

At the same time, the processes implemented in this field were often segmented; as a result, certain improvements in separate sectors with regard to certain services, rather than modernisation upon principle of systematic interoperability and complementarity have occurred in the field of services provided by the state.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of the action, radical reforms of public service provision will be ensured before the termination of effectiveness of the Programme of the Government within the sense of making them citizen-centred, universally available and technology-based.

In particular, the grounds for uniform policy in the sector of public services will be fully defined, the large-scale agenda of digitisation of services will be implemented.

4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The direct outcomes expected as a result of the action are as follows:

- Providing legal grounds of uniform policy in the sector of state and community services in line with the best international practice, introducing procedural and technical uniform criteria and standards (including digital and electronic, cybersecurity), introducing monitoring mechanisms and Quality Management System;
- Stage-by-stage implementation of the process of modernising public services, with the logic of life experience;
- Ensuring the tools for omnichannel provision of public services and business processes;
- Operation of modern mechanisms for public assessment of services and feedback;
- Operation of the unified digital platform for the provision of public services by ensuring the accessibility of all the services through the "one-stop shop" principle;
- Stage-by-stage digitisation of public services, including with the introduction of motivational schemes for using digital services by public preference;

4. ESTABLISHING A MERIT-BASED AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

In section 6.3 "Public service system and human resource management" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government seeks to develop and establish an effective system of public service through increasing the effectiveness of public service and forming a human capital endowed with high professionalism and integrity effectively settling the issues set before the state system.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

There is no comprehensive data on human resources in the public sector, which would provide an opportunity to increase fact-based decision-making and effective implementation of public service reforms, including the automation of a number of processes.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of the action, the senior executive corps of skilful managers and policy elaborators will be formed, reform of the salary and reward systems will be carried out, the assessment system of current performance will be reviewed, the digital infrastructure of human resource management will be improved.

4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

- Existence of the Human Resource Management Information System /HRMIS/ rich with databases and analytical tool kit, including interoperable with other necessary administrative data registers.

5. INSTITUTIONAL MODERNISATION OF STATE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

In Section 6.4 "Modernisation of institutions and functions" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government aims at reviewing the functional composition of the state system and accordingly modernise the institutional structure ensuring effective institutions and mechanisms serving the public interest. The action is aimed at ensuring the process of institutional modernisation through clear actions and results of evidence-based activity, by forming state institutions working under responsible, accountable, transparent, effective, stable and resource-efficient practice.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

During the various generations of reforms in the public administration system of the country, numerous changes have taken place in the structure and institutions of public administration. They are mostly interrelated with the change of governments. In absence of systematic benchmarks and without formulation of issues and clear objectives, the re-organisation, as a rule, was segmented, situational, often built around individuals. Changes have not been effective particularly in the short-term and mid-term period; moreover, they directly and negatively affected the quality of the vital activity of the system, as a consequence having disruptions during the implementation of the programmes, policy and reforms, creating a demotivating environment among public servants.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of this action, the Government will undertake to implement the functional and institutional wide-scale modernisation agenda forming proper analytical grounds and abilities.

4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

- Legal grounds ensuring the continuity of the modernisation of state administration system, including the mandate for coordination and the clear responsibility of the implementation thereof, will be fully introduced;

Office of Deputy Prime Minister T. Khachatryan	
NN	RATIONALE
1.	<p>INCREASING THE INSTITUTIONAL EFFICIENCY OF BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:</p> <p>In section 6.4 "Modernisation of institutions and functions" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government aims at reviewing the functional composition of the state system and accordingly modernise the institutional structure ensuring effective institutions and mechanisms serving the public interest. The action is aimed at ensuring the process of institutional modernisation through clear actions and tangible work results, forming responsible, accountable, transparent, efficient state institutions functioning through sustainable practice.</p> <p>2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>During the various generations of reforms in the public administration system of the country, numerous changes have taken place in the structure and institutions of public administration. They are mostly interrelated with the change of governments. In absence of systematic benchmarks and without formulation of issues and clear objectives, the re-organisation, as a rule, was segmented, situational, often built around individuals. Changes have not been effective particularly in the short-term and mid-term period; moreover, they directly and negatively affected the quality of the vital activity of the system, as a consequence having disruptions during the implementation of the programmes, policy and reforms, creating a demotivating environment among public servants.</p> <p>The main problems of the functional and institutional field in the management system are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - objective restrictions to more efficiently use time and effort at the high management level for the purpose of carrying out reforms of systemic and strategic content. - Partial duplications of horizontal roles between different links in the central apparatus, as a result — sometimes not fully co-ordinated, fragmented or insufficiently effective administration, certain breakdowns in communication with different actors and beneficial owners. - Inadequacy of the legislation and regulations defining the unified, complete framework and detailed typology of the management system. Apart from the ministries, other bodies are, in essence, outside of direct parliamentary control.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - necessity for re-interpretation of the role of the Ministry from strategic, institutional, managerial and resource perspectives. - diversity of bodies in the management system (ministry, subordinate body, committee, service, inspection body, foundation, programme management office, SNCO, department, department, office, etc.) and lack of typology. - a number of foundations and similar structures act as bodies implementing programmes and work under the budget programmes of the Ministry through sub-contracts, they do not go through a competitive selection process, the practice of non-systematic and fragmented management, reporting and monitoring provokes the emergence of parallel and repetitive functions. - the lack of practice of applying innovative and alternative models of provision of non-basic supporting functions in the state system, as a result — unjustified overloading of the system with the maintenance of operations implying administration. <p>3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of this action, the Government will undertake to implement the functional and institutional wide-scale modernisation agenda in the public sector for the purpose of settling the indicated systematic gaps and issues, ensuring the methodological toolkit and legal regulations for the institutional modernisation of the state, as well as the functional and institutional review and re-organisation of the bodies of the state system.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the action</p> <p>The following main outcomes will be ensured in case of the full implementation of the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The functional and institutional architecture of the state system will be reviewed from top to the bottom in full vertical, including Office of the Prime Minister, ministries, state bodies and other organisations; - A unified methodology for determining the organisational type of the bodies of the state administration system will be elaborated, based on which a complete inventory-taking of state bodies and elaboration of a unified typology will be provided, aimed at clarifying the organisational and legal form for similar functions. - A number of selected support functions will be rationalised, by launching a model of shared services; - As a result of systematic functional re-construction and actions of increasing the effectiveness, in parallel, will ensure an optimal size of the system
2.	<p style="text-align: center;">INCREASING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action:</p> <p>In section 6.3 "Public service system and human resource management" of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government seeks to develop and establish an effective system of public service through increasing the effectiveness of public service and forming a human capital</p>

endowed with high professionalism and integrity effectively settling the issues set before the state system.

2. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The legislation regulating the public service has undergone some reforms in recent years, the range of civil servants has been expanded, however, there are some problems in the system:

- The scope of the public service is still not fully unified and the status of some groups is still unclear. There are types of state service, each whereof is regulated by a separate legislation.

Quasi-state institutions — SNCO, CNCO, funds, joint-stock companies with state share, etc. — with personnel working under the fundamentals of private law are outside the public and civil service system. Legal relations of replenishing managing and professional positions, descriptions of functions, job assessment and other official legal relations are regulated outside the public or civil service legislation. As a result, unequal conditions are created between the employees of different categories performing state function.

- In the consolidation of political, administrative, discretionary, civil service positions in the structure of state bodies, there is a distortion of the logic of the management system, process management, responsibility and decision-making institution as a result of overlaps of powers, tasks and functions.
- Imperfections of the recruitment and replenishment system of the personnel, when in the process of assessing the knowledge of applicant, the knowledge of legal acts prevails, and to a lesser extent, the verification of capacities and skills.
- Low level of horizontal mobility in the state system, very limited opportunities for promotion of vertical mobility.
- Implementation of the main elements of the training system with insufficient quality: identification of needs, elaboration of programmes or unified and systematic evaluation of the course.
- The largely administrative nature of the activities of HRM sub-divisions, the administration related to hiring, provision of vacations, etc., prevail in terms of volume, the development of human capital, the introduction of elements of corporate culture, issues of ethics and good behaviour, the elaboration of recommendations for the development of working conditions, the implementation of analyses and researches are of a smaller volume in them.

For a number of reasons, the public service is unattractive and uncompetitive for the youth and skilful specialists, as a result whereof there is a grave issue of providing quality human resource in bodies of executive power. One of the most important reasons is the ineffective system of salary and material incentive, the availability of the amount and structure of remuneration, non-motivational nature of the reward system, performance assessment system operating with insufficient effectiveness.

3. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned problems, improvement of the horizontal and vertical scope of public service, as well as improvement of financial and non-financial systems in the public sector, elaboration and implementation of mechanisms for increasing the attractiveness of the public sector

	<p>will be carried out within the scope of this action.</p> <p>4. Expected outcome from implementation of the action</p> <p>The following main outcomes will be ensured in case of the full implementation of the action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the results of the functional analysis of the bodies of the state administration system, a review of the functions of the personnel of the bodies and accordingly improvement of the existing system for classification of types and positions of public service, modernisation of the job description of public servants based on the state, and as a result of all this, increasing the flexibility of the system, while not disrupting institutional sustainability and maintaining the principle of meritocracy. - Establishment of merit-based and performance-based effective system of remuneration and incentive, including through the reform of systems for salary, reward and performance assessment; - The best, internationally applicable practices of the private sector will be exchanged in the recruitment and replenishment processes of the personnel, as a result, hiring procedures will not be a means to check formal knowledge, but an opportunity to assess capacities, skills and potential. - Mechanisms will be introduced to promote vertical and horizontal mobility in the system, aimed at sharing best practices and continuous capacity-building. - The existing system of trainings will also be modernised, aimed at making trainings a means not only of improving abilities and knowledge, but also of forming a stock of skills necessary to achieve the strategic and policy goals of the sector.
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Office of the Security Council	
N/N	RATIONALE
1	<p><u>Establishment of external intelligence service of the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia enshrines the imperative of having an external intelligence service. Besides, on 5 August 2019, then within the scope of the actions of the 29th anniversary of Independence of Armenia, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has submitted the Transformation Strategy of Armenia by 2050, which has also covered having one of the 10 most effective intelligence services in the world. Taking into consideration the existing issues in processes of providing information by the intelligence bodies during the war of 2016 and 44-day war of 2020, the necessity of improving the operability and quality of intelligence information, Armenia has an imperative to have a new quality Intelligence Service and form its own intelligence school for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of intelligence activities and improvement of the sector. The fact that only Armenia in the region still does not have a separate intelligence service attests to the necessity of creating a separate institution of intelligence service.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The necessity for intelligence service being a separate institution is also evidenced by the practice in different countries of the world. The existence of intelligence service in the system of the National Security Service is also reasoned by technical and financial difficulties. The intelligence service actually requires large investments; however, considerable funds are also allocated to the Department for Intelligence Service of the National Security Service. Besides, it should be mentioned that the separation of intelligence service may significantly contribute to the increase in functional effectiveness of the National Security Service, creating an opportunity to focus on counter-intelligence and directions for fighting against terrorism.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The process of establishing a separate institution of intelligence service is necessary to be carried out in two directions — executive and legal — for the purpose of carrying out main organisational activities, respectively, and elaborating drafts aimed at ensuring the relevant legislation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is envisaged to have a service carrying out specialised external intelligence activities subordinate to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia with modern infrastructures and logistic support, having a unique role in the process of ensuring the safety of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
2	<p><u>Establishment of the State Protection Service as a separate body of the state administration system</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the action stems from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In accordance with the current legislative regulations, the State Protection Service has a status of an Office of the National Security Service. However, the State Protection Service is acting as a unit endowed with certain independence, which is reflected in the peculiarity and uniqueness of the latter's functions, in the process of implementation whereof, despite the existence of the necessity of assisting the National Security Service in certain cases, the implementation thereof is not directly "conditioned" by the participation of the National Security Service and the relevant assistance may also be provided fully, upon necessity, within the scope of co-operation between the state bodies. Moreover, the direct participation of the Prime Minister in forming his managing staff is also the reflection of certain autonomy of the State Protection Service (the Head of the Service is appointed and dismissed by the President of the Republic upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister, and the first deputy — by the Prime Minister, upon representation of the Head of the National Security Service).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>It is recommended to separate the State Protection Service from the system of bodies of the National Security Service and continue the further activity thereof as a body of state administration system.</p> <p>Attaching importance to the necessity of operational management of functions of the body replenished with servicemen and endowed with the status of "other troops", as well as taking into consideration that, in case of state protection service, the service is conditioned by the imperative to rapidly response to the situation and take equivalent actions on a daily basis, it is envisaged to involve the latter among the bodies subordinate to the Prime Minister.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The action is envisaged to be implemented in two directions — executive and legal — for the purpose of carrying out main organisational activities, respectively, and elaborating drafts aimed at ensuring the relevant legislation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is expected to provide the State Protection Service with the status of a body subordinate to the Prime Minister, removing it from the system of bodies of the National Security Service, and as a result to have a service carrying out activity of specialised state protection.</p>
3	<p><u>Revising (reviewing) the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia taking into consideration the new challenges faced by the Republic of Armenia</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The imperative of reviewing and modernising the National Security Strategy stems from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. After the 44-day war in 2020, the regional security environment has undergone significant changes, making the challenges faced by Armenia more complex and multilayer.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the aforementioned, as well as the importance of implementing the provisions of the new Programme of the Government formed as a result of early parliamentary elections held in 2021 in the Republic of Armenia, a necessity has arisen to review the National Security Strategy, which will enable to reflect in that fundamental document the new security threats created around Armenia and the ways to resist and overcome them, priorities relating to the security sector, as well as revise the measures of ensuring the national interests of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In the situation created, the territorial integrity and regular development of the Republic of Armenia are possible only in conditions of reviewing advanced security mechanisms. The necessity of reviewing the National Security Strategy is conditioned by the necessity of facing the issues and challenges stemming from both the internal and external environment of the Republic of Armenia, elaborating active security mechanisms.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of carrying out revision activities in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia, it is necessary to create an inter-agency task force to carry out basic organisational activities and elaborate a relevant draft.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is envisaged to have a benchmark document in the reviewed and modernised security sector, which, in its turn, will contribute to the modernisation of security systems of Armenia, as well as revision and harmonisation of other sector-specific strategies and policies stemming from the Strategy.</p>

Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs	
N/N	RATIONALE
1.	<p>1.1 Submitting the draft Decision on the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On repatriation"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity stems from provisions of part 1 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 5 of sub-section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 5.29 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and "Armenia Transformation Strategy by 2050", page 50. It is aimed at implementing a policy for development of comprehensive ties with the Armenian Diaspora and retaining the Armenian identity, contributing to repatriation, uniting Armenians in their Homeland and improving the demographic situation in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The repatriation is the elaboration and implementation of a number of actions aimed at combining the Pan-Armenian potential, as an important component of the state policy. Repatriation is considered to be the right of each Armenian to settle in their homeland, and is under the auspices of the state as an important factor for retaining the Armenian identity.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Significantly reinforce the economic, political, intellectual and defence potential of the Republic of Armenia, by promoting the process of repatriation. The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On repatriation" is mainly aimed at regulating the legal relations pertaining the repatriation. The main tasks of this Law are to define the main objectives, directions and principles of state policy on repatriation, powers of state bodies for repatriation affairs, the procedure for filing a repatriation application, providing the status of repatriate and integrating the repatriate, privileges and the procedures for provision thereof.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On repatriation" will provide the opportunity to organise the legal grounds of the repatriation process.</p> <p>1.2. Establishing Repatriation and Integration Centre and ensuring the activity thereof</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity stems from provisions of part 1 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 5 of sub-section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 5.29 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and "Armenia Transformation Strategy by 2050", page 50. It is aimed at introducing an effective mechanism for identifying, recording and regulating various issues of persons/families repatriating and returning, which, as a</p>

common platform, will contribute to the rapid cooperation between repatriates/returnees and state bodies.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The promotion of repatriation, as well as effective organisation of the integration process in the Republic of Armenia are among the priorities of state policy in accordance with the 2019 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as well as for reaching the settlement of the task of ensuring ongoing and large-scale immigration by 2050. In terms of carrying out the integration of repatriates and returnees in a coordinated and complex way, the provision of fast, quality and affordable services to our compatriots is an important task today. The absence of the Integration Centre operating upon the principle of "One-stop shop" significantly hinders the implementation of quality services, after the introduction whereof the provision of individualised service of the whole repatriation process will be ensured, many problems in place will be solved.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to establish a Centre for Repatriation and Integration, which will serve as a unified platform for regulating all the matters and problems related to repatriation. It will improve the availability and effectiveness of the entire repatriation process, which will provide an opportunity for regulating various problems related to the integration of repatriates, will contribute to the implementation of rapid, effective and complex services in the Republic of Armenia and the priority problems of the repatriates will be regulated. Coordinating works with other state and non-governmental bodies. The State will be more prepared for the increase and maintenance of flows of voluntary repatriation or repatriation in state of emergency. The Centre will be an effective mechanism for identifying, recording and regulating the problems of the repatriating and returning persons/families. The employees of the Centre will be the employees of the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Submitting draft legal act on establishment of the Centre is not envisaged.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The Centre for Repatriation and Integration will serve as a unified platform for regulating all the matters and problems related to repatriation and integration. It is envisaged to serve at least 2500 persons in 2022, with the perspective of increasing that number in upcoming years.

1.3. Providing healthcare to compatriots having returned/repatriated from conflict zones and communities in emergency situations

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from provisions of part 1 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 5 of sub-section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 5.29 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and "Armenia Transformation Strategy by 2050", page 50. The action is aimed at supporting to settle the healthcare issues of persons having returned/repatriated from conflict zones and communities in emergency situations.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

One of the key issues in terms of carrying out coordinated and complex integration of repatriates from conflict zones and communities in emergency

situations is the issue of providing quality and affordable services related to the healthcare sector raising concern among compatriots, which has caused many people to emigrate.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Annually provide to at least 100 compatriots having returned/repatriated from other communities in conflict and emergency situations will receive healthcare assistance within the scope of state order, which will provide an opportunity to settle their priority medical issues (diagnosis and treatment, except form the medical services provided by applying the latest and most expensive technologies).

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The implementation of the action will provide an opportunity to settle the primary medical issues of repatriates from conflict zones and communities in emergency situations.

1.4. Providing free education in the state higher education institutions of the Republic of Armenia for students repatriated/having returned to the Republic of Armenia for permanent residence

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from provisions of part 1 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, points 3 and 5 of sub-section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, point 5.29 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and "Armenia Transformation Strategy by 2050", page 50. The action is aimed at assisting the repatriated students in the process of enrolling at HEIs of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, Diaspora Armenians may study free-of-charge only in faculties of Armenian Studies at Armenian higher educational institution, up to 70 places per year, however, the issue of provision of an opportunity to study free-of-charge in other faculties has also been raised many times by Diaspora Armenians.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to allocate additional places for earning a degree in other specialities besides Armenian Studies. Up to 100 returned/repatriated students (moved to Armenia maximum 2 years prior to the academic year) in state HEIs of the Republic of Armenia will receive full refund of tuition fees by a bachelor's programme, allocating available unfilled places within the framework of the state order to the repatriated/returned compatriots in order to expand the opportunities to get a higher education and be integrated in the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Ensures getting higher education in Armenian Studies and other specialisations and provides opportunities for ongoing education in Armenian HEIs.

2.	<p style="text-align: center;">2.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the strategy for developing the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity stems from provisions of parts 1 and 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia points of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the Armenia Transformation Strategy by 2050. The steps for and expected outcomes of implementing the provisions defined in the above-mentioned legal acts will be presented according to directions in draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. It is aimed at defining the main directions for developing the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In 2009, by the Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia the concept paper of Armenia-Diaspora Partnership was approved, which defined the main directions for cooperation with the Diaspora by the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and other agencies of the Republic of Armenia. The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, being reorganised under the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, redistributed a number of functions performed thereby to the sectoral ministries, however, some part remained open. There is still no regulatory legal act regulating the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership, which would provide the opportunity to organise and carry out the development of the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership in all directions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the strategy for developing the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation" will define the main directions of the development of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation and the legal grounds for forming a pan-Armenian agenda. All the directions of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, the implementation whereof stems from the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, will be presented in Decision. It will include a number of strategic directions — repatriation, retention of Armenian identity, assistance to Armenian communities, assistance to Armenians in emergency situations, involvement of the potential of Diaspora in development programmes of the Republic of Armenia, etc.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia will provide the opportunity to carry out activities with the Diaspora in all directions and define grounds of the pan-Armenian agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2.2. Improvement of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia concerning the Diaspora Armenians and repatriates</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity stems from provisions of parts 1 and 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 5 of Section "1.4 Relations with</p>
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Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.23 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. It is aimed at eliminating or clarifying those legislative prohibitions, which do not enable the Diaspora Armenians to be fully involved in the public life of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, exclusively those holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may be engaged in the state administration sector of the Republic of Armenia, and a time limit of permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia is also required in case of certain positions. In addition, certain record of work in the sector of public service is required to hold this or that position in state administration units. The right to suffrage of Diaspora Armenians is also restricted. The settlement of the issues has been raised many times by Diaspora Armenians, and the Government of the Republic of Armenia, in turn, referred to the necessity for settling the issue.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Make amendments in a number of legislative acts, elaborate new legal acts, which will provide the Diaspora Armenians with the opportunity to work in the republican executive, local self-government and legislative bodies of the Republic of Armenia, study at higher educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia through a simplified procedure, take part in electoral processes in the Republic of Armenia, etc.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The legislative amendments of the Republic of Armenia will provide the opportunity to involve Diaspora Armenians in the state administration system of the Republic of Armenia, will contribute to simplification of mechanisms for engaging investments, increase in effectiveness of carrying out charity and public initiatives and development of other sectors.

2.3. Implementing the action "Step Towards Home"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from provisions of parts 1 and 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 3 of Section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.27 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. It is aimed at contributing to retention and development of national identity of the Armenian young people aged 13-18 in Diaspora, increasing the level of awareness of their homeland, the volumes of study visits of Diaspora-Armenian teenagers to Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The retention of the Armenian identity, the Armenian language and the Armenian culture are endangered in Diaspora. The vitality of Diaspora lies in constant and diverse contacts and relations of the youth with their homeland, study visits of teenage boys and girls to Armenia, acquaintances and contacts with their peers, their permanent relations with the rich Armenian heritage.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is possible to make their own homeland, linguistic and cultural assets known to the youth of the Diaspora through the implementation of "Step Towards Home" project, thus contribute to the reinforcement of Armenia-Diaspora ties, retention of the Armenian identity in Diaspora. Study visits to historical and cultural sites, educational institutions, museums, rural communities, as well as accelerated Armenian language classes (according to the level of command of language, age groups, separation of Western Armenian and Eastern Armenian, etc.), courses of Homeland Studies will be organised within the scope of the action.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The implementation of the action will provide an opportunity for the adolescents and young people of Diaspora to visit the historical and cultural obelisks, museums, educational centres, rural communities of Armenia. Within the scope of the action the participants will learn Armenian, native studies, traditional song and dance, meet state, public figures, figures of culture and art, attend a number of sport and cultural events. Returning to their countries of residence, they will compare notes with their age mates, which will contribute to their visit to Armenia in the next years. Annual participation by 400 persons is envisaged. It is envisaged that 600 persons will participate annually from 2024.

2.4. Implementing the action "Training Young Leaders of Diaspora"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from provisions of parts 1 and 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, points 2 and 4 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.28 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at assisting those young people in Diaspora, who are involved in the processes of reinforcing the Armenia-Diaspora relations and carry out activities aimed at activating the community life and protecting Armenian interests, as well as forming a dynamic network for the Armenian youth, which will have an expanded representation of Diaspora Armenian youth from different communities of the world.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Nowadays one of the challenges in Diaspora is the alienation and intermarriages, few young people are involved in the community life and the cooperation between the community institutions is at a low level.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

After participating in the two-week training programme organised in Armenia, the young people return to the communities and conduct at least 60 community and awareness meetings within a year, manuals for the exchange of experiences of inter-community works — at least 20, publications and information initiatives regarding other Armenian programmes — at least 40. From 2024, the event will be attended by 30 persons each year and within a year they will carry out (in total number) community and awareness-raising meetings - at least 80, manuals for the exchange of experience of inter-community work - at

least - 20, publications and information initiatives on social platforms and media about the office, other programmes in Armenia - at least 50.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

After being trained for a fortnight in Armenia, the participants of the action will support the implementation of actions in their countries of residence for 1 year; they will have community meetings and will submit the programmes of the Office, etc

2.5. Action "Involving Diaspora Armenian professionals of "iGorts" to work in the state administration system of the Republic of Armenia"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 3 of Section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.23 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at providing the highly-qualified specialists of Diaspora with the opportunity to apply their experience and knowledge in bodies of state administration system of the Republic of Armenia. From 2024, the name of the programme will be "iGorts" involving Diaspora Armenian specialists in the state administration system of the Republic of Armenia."

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

One of the recommendations of Diaspora addressed to the Government of the Republic of Armenia is to provide Diaspora Armenians with an opportunity to be involved in public sector of the Republic of Armenia and enable to hold different positions in state administration and local self-government bodies of the Republic of Armenia. It is not feasible currently, since it will require making a number of legislative amendments.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of the action, it is envisaged to involve up to 50 Diaspora Armenian high qualified specialists in bodies of the state administration system of Armenia. The state will cover all of their accommodation costs in Armenia, provide health insurance package, as well as cover the expenses of their travel to and from Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Annually at least 5 new programmes aimed at developing the Republic of Armenia will be jointly elaborated with specialists of the relevant sector of Armenia and Artsakh. As a result of the implementation of the plan, at least 25 % professional repatriation is envisaged per year.

2.6. Ensuring awareness raising of Armenia-Diaspora Partnership

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from points 3-4 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The programme is aimed at making the Armenian culture, art, history, national values and films more accessible to the Armenian communities in Diaspora. The action is also aimed at presenting the stories of repatriates in Diaspora, investments of Diaspora Armenian businessmen in Armenia, charity projects,

as well as the programmes of the Government of the Republic of Armenia aimed at the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

There are no Armenian educational institutions, schools, clubs in many communities of Armenian Diaspora, as a result whereof being informed about the identity qualities, history, language and culture of their own nation is not accessible, in particular, to children and young people, which makes the process of retaining the Armenian identity more difficult.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Ordering, broadcasting and promoting in social platforms the programmes, video materials, animation materials, lives, films on the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, programmes, repatriation, investments made by Diaspora, involvement of the professional potential of Diaspora Armenians in the life in Armenia via metric and satellite broadcasting of TV companies, in community websites of Diaspora.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the action, preparing, broadcasting and promoting in social platforms at least 30 programmes, 50 video materials, 10 animation materials, 4 lives, 4 films on the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, programmes, repatriation, investments made by Diaspora, involvement of the professional potential of Diaspora Armenians in the life in Armenia by TV companies and in community websites of Diaspora will be carried out. Providing trilingual news on the website of the office, distributing at least 300 press releases each year, making at least 2200 publications on all social platforms each year, as well as distributing at least 12 five-language bulletins to more than 30 thousand e-mail addresses of the Diaspora each year. Branding and promotion of the office and existing programmes on information platforms. Informational co-operation with at least 40 Diaspora and Armenian partners in order publicise and increase awareness of programmes and news related to the Diaspora.

2.7. Implementing the Action "Support to Armenian-language media in Georgia"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 7 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.27 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. It is aimed at implementing a policy for development of comprehensive contacts with the Armenian Diaspora and retention of the Armenian identity, contributing to repatriation.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Ensuring the partnership of the Republic of Armenia and Armenian Diaspora, reinforcing the contacts between them and spiritual unity of the Armenian nation are important components of the policy of the Government. Formation and development of favourable environment for retaining the Armenian identity and developing Armenian communities, elaboration of pan-Armenian programmes and assistance in implementation thereof.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Providing grants for the purpose of ensuring the operation of at least 3 Armenian-language media in Georgia, as a result whereof the Georgian-Armenians will have an opportunity to get familiar with the information concerning both the inner and external policy of Armenia and the Armenian community in Georgia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Ensuring the operation of at least 3 Armenian-language media in Georgia each year.

2.8. Forming an Institute of Commissioners for Diaspora Affairs

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 9 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.28 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at having representatives of the Office of High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs in communities of Diaspora.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Office of High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia does not have its representatives in Diaspora, which, in turn, makes it difficult to be informed about events happening in the community, therefore assisting the settlement thereof, as well.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to appoint Commissioners for Diaspora Affairs in the communities of Diaspora, which will be the representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia in Diaspora, by ensuring constant connection with the communities, awareness of programmes, identification of issues, and will recommend ways for the settlement thereof.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

It is envisaged to appoint at least 2 Commissioners for Diaspora Affairs in 2023.

2.9. Forming the Institute of Commissioners

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 1 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.28 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The Action is aimed at involving representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs in the Diaspora communities..

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

	<p>The Office of the Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia does not have representatives in the Diaspora, which in turn causes difficulties in staying informed about events taking place within the community, thus hindering their support and resolution..</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is planned to appoint Commissioners for Diaspora Affairs in Diaspora communities, who will serve as representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs. These commissioners will ensure ongoing communication with the communities, raise awareness about projects, identify issues, and propose solutions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>In 2023, it is planned to appoint at least two Commissioners for Diaspora Affairs. Starting in 2025, it is envisioned that at least five Commissioners for Diaspora Affairs will be appointed each year. .</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">2.10. Forming a Diaspora-Armenian Council</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity stems from point 1 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.21 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at forming a Council consisting of well-known sectoral figures of Diaspora and Armenia for discussing the programmes to be implemented aiming at the development of Armenia-Diaspora Partnership.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Programmes implemented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for developing the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership are not often discussed with Diaspora Armenians before beginning, and it sometimes causes great discontent among Diaspora Armenians.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>An advisory body consisting mainly of prominent Diaspora Armenian figures will be formed under the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia for the purpose of discussing the programmes for the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation. Submitting draft legal act is not envisaged.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>To have an advisory body with the involvement of Diaspora Armenians for planning and discussing the programmes to be implemented for Armenia-Diaspora cooperation in advance. It is envisaged to establish a Board in 2023.</p>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;">3.1. Revealing human potential of Diaspora and road mapping thereof</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

The necessity stems from point 2 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and points of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at identifying and mapping the human potential of Diaspora existing in different sectors.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

To deepen the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership it is important to conduct a coordinated study of resources existing in Armenian Diaspora and identify the full human, including professional potential.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to identify the human potential in professional, economic, scientific and educational, cultural and other sectors of Diaspora —through the use of the internet and other open information sources, which will enable to have complete information on the human potential in Diaspora. Within the scope of the action it is envisaged to carry out a large-scale fact-finding mission in Diaspora and summarise the information collected in one common information platform.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Starting from 2023, it is envisaged to annually collect data on at least 25,000 Diaspora Armenian individuals from the Internet and revise the already collected information. In 2024, it is envisaged to revise the information on 50,000 individuals collected before.

3.2. Conducting studies of Diaspora communities

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 2 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and points of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at studying the Armenian communities of Diaspora and having complete information on the potential of the community and operating institutions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The study on communities of Diaspora has always been one of the main functions of the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia; however, coordinated studies have not been conducted before.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Large-scale studies of Diaspora communities will be conducted to find out community issues, level of engagement of Armenians in community life, level of integration in the country of residence, etc. In the course of studying Diaspora communities, it is envisaged to record-register all the institutions of Diaspora, classify according to the spheres of activity and verify the contact information of those responsible for them. Community passports will be drawn up according to countries, where the entire potential and all the operating institutions of the community will be represented. In 2022, methods and plan-

schedule of studying Diaspora communities will be planned, and the studies will be conducted starting from 2023.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Community passports will be drawn up according to countries, where all the structures operating the community will be represented. In 2023, an information website will be created, which will summarise the information on the communities.

3.3. Employment in Diaspora communities

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from points 1 and 2 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.27 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. It is aimed at studying the issues of Diaspora communities, taking measures for settlement thereof, contributing to the self-organisation of Diaspora Armenians as community units, contributing to regular organisation of gathering-meetings in communities according to the professional sectors and unconditionally participating therein for outlining the prospects of cooperation and drawing up the plan-schedule of actions to be implemented jointly.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

There is a need to settle, get aware of diverse issues existing in the sector of operation of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, establish contacts, respond to invitations and events of different communities, be present at the sites and clearly imagine the situations created. There are unique fundamental issues in many communities, which have objective or subjective reasons. Those issues very often hinder the organisation of activities and partnership with the given community and by being in sites it is possible to accurately assess the prospects and realistic ways of cooperation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of the action, the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, Head and employees of the Office will be in Armenian communities in the form of business visits, get acquainted with the issues of community on the spot, participate in cultural, community and other actions organised in sites, represent the programmes aimed at the development of Armenia-Diaspora Partnership of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, answer numerous questions, etc. During the business visits it is also envisaged to discuss the wider involvement of Armenians in community life, contribute to the formation of new community units, meet specialists of different sectors and discuss the possibilities of creating sectoral networks, both according to countries and pan-Armenianism. Contribute to regular organisation of gathering-meetings in communities according to the professional sectors and unconditionally participating therein for outlining the prospects of cooperation and drawing up the plan-schedule of actions to be implemented jointly.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The implementation of the action will deepen the Armenia-Diaspora cooperation. It is expected that at least 20 percent of the issues raised during the visits in Armenian communities will be settled during the given year

3.4. Supporting the Armenian communities of Diaspora

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from points 4 and 7 of Section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.27 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at assisting the activity of educational and cultural institutions of Diaspora and contributing to the spread of Armenian culture in Diaspora.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Diaspora communities have always had the problem of preserving Armenian identity. Establishing cultural ties with Armenia has always been important for Diaspora communities. After the dissolution of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, activities aimed at strengthening cultural ties are no longer carried out.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Within the scope of the action logistics accessories will be provided for the purpose of assisting the operation of educational and cultural centres of Diaspora. Speeches of cultural figures from Armenia will be organised in large communities of Diaspora in cooperation with community, as well as educational and cultural institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Providing logistics accessories for the purpose of assisting the operation of educational and cultural centres of Diaspora. Organising speeches of cultural figures from Armenia in the Diaspora communities in 2023 — at least 2 events per year.

4.1. Holding pan-Armenian conferences in Armenia

4. 1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 3 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.21 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. Holding conferences is aimed at contributing to the development of the Armenia-Diaspora contacts, discussing the issues of pan-Armenian significance, outlining the plans and actions to be implemented in coming years according to relevant sectors.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Armenia-Diaspora pan-Armenian conferences have been held since 1999. Before the formation of the Ministry of Diaspora, the first 3 conferences have been held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Then, they have been held in 2011, 2014 and 2017 by the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia. Issues of pan-Armenian significance, problems faced by the Republic of Armenia, community problems, etc. have been discussed

during conferences in the given period of time. The works to be implemented in coming years have been outlined during each conference, however, they were not often included in the priorities of the Government and brought to life, as well as Diaspora did not have enough confidence in the authorities at the time.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to hold 3 conferences in 2022 (On Diaspora political figures and state servants, Diaspora investments and charity and Armenia-Diaspora pan-Armenian conferences) and discuss the prospects of developing the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership anew. It is envisaged to invite all the circles of Diaspora to conferences — heads and representatives of pan-Armenian, Diaspora institutions, famous individuals, specialists of different sectors etc. It is envisaged to discuss the issues of pan-Armenian significance, outline the programmes and actions to be implemented jointly in coming years, discuss and elaborate mechanisms for forming a pan-Armenian Council. Up to 2500 persons will take part in the conferences, up to 1800 of which are from Diaspora. A Youth Pan-Armenian Conference will be held in 2023 with participation of around 800 Diaspora Armenians, during which problems of the youth in Armenia and Diaspora will be discussed, as well as a plan-schedule of actions on the further cooperation will be elaborated.

Starting from 2024, it is envisaged to organise a pan-Armenian conference annually. In 2025 it is envisaged to organise 1 pan-Armenian and 1 professional conference.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the conferences, the Armenia-Diaspora Partnership will be strengthened, bilateral relations will be established between the specialists of relevant sector of Armenia and Diaspora, pan-Armenian networks will be created in scientific, professional, educational and cultural, economic and other sectors, a number of programmes will be jointly implemented.

4.2. Organising professional conferences and discussions

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from points 3, 4 of Section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.21 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The conferences are aimed at uniting the professional potential of Diaspora and discussing the possibilities of involvement thereof in the programmes for development of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

One of the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia is the provision of coordinated participation of Diaspora in settlement of fundamental issues of significance for the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, creation of pan-Armenian professional networks, engagement of potential of Diaspora Armenian specialists of different sectors in different programmes for development of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to organise pan-Armenian professional conferences in Armenia or Diaspora annually. It will provide an opportunity to contribute to the establishment of professional contacts and creation of networks, elaboration and implementation of joint programmes. New pan-Armenian professional networks will be formed as a result of conducting conferences, which will contribute to the involvement of professional potential of Diaspora in programmes for development of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

It is envisaged to organise 1 pan-Armenian professional conference in Armenia in 2023.

4.3. Involving the potential of the Diaspora in processes of the development of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 3 of Section "1.4 Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.23 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at involving the potential existing in different sectors of Diaspora for the benefit of the development of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The labour market of Armenia needs qualified specialists, as well as necessity for bringing and applying innovative technologies to Armenia from abroad.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Engage Diaspora Armenian specialists in public and private sector of the Republic of Armenia, by cooperating with sectoral agencies. The process implies both the principle of volunteering and remuneration. They will also help discuss the mechanisms for introducing innovative technologies and ideas in different branches of development of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

By cooperating with agencies of the Republic of Armenia, online and offline involvement of Diaspora Armenian specialists in state administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia. From 2023, it is envisaged to involve at least 5 sectoral specialists per year.

4.4. Involving Diaspora Armenians in various levels of public sector in long term and short term cut

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 2 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.23 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at effectively involving the potential — experience and knowledge — of highly qualified specialists of Diaspora in state administration system of the Republic

of Armenia to the extent possible.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Conditioned by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, in case of not holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia Diaspora Armenians cannot work in bodies of state administration system of the Republic of Armenia, and sometimes an issue arises concerning the record of work, in case the citizenship is available. Besides, Diaspora Armenians have always made recommendations to use their experience and knowledge in activities of increasing the effectiveness of the state administration system of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is envisaged to involve the highly qualified specialists of Diaspora at different levels of the public sector in short term and long term cut, as well as on-line, according to the applications submitted by state institutions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

- Appointing Diaspora Armenian deputy heads in agencies of the Republic of Armenia, as appropriate;
- Involving Diaspora Armenian advisers of heads of agencies of the Republic of Armenia, including on voluntary basis;
- Involving Diaspora Armenian specialists in various levels of public sector in the short term and in remote format for the purpose of providing expert and consultancy services according to the presented needs of agencies.

4.5. Assisting the attraction of investments from Diaspora

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 2 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.23 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at assisting the attraction of investments from Diaspora, by providing information on investment policy and privileges issued.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Investments have been mainly attracted either by Diaspora, or due to their direct efforts since the independence of the Republic of Armenia up to date. However, Diaspora Armenians face a number of issues while attracting investments, which mainly relate to lack of awareness, and issues related to documentation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Provide information to Diaspora Armenians on the opportunities for making investments in Armenia and on the privileges provided by the State. Provide documentary and consulting assistance to Diaspora Armenian investors. Provide information to the potential Diaspora Armenian investors on the investment

programmes approved and pending at the draft stage in marzes of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Raising awareness of the investment policy of the Republic of Armenia among Diaspora Armenian businessmen, which in turn will lead to an increase in the volume of investments.

4.6. Supporting the implementation of charity programmes by Diaspora

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity stems from point 2 of Section "1.4. Relations with Diaspora" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and point 5.23 of Section "Armenia-Diaspora: Formation of Pan-Armenianism" of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The action is aimed at assisting with the charity projects implemented from Diaspora, by providing information on the legislation of the charity sector, information on the needs of different state and public institutions, as well as assist with the works of localising the programmes.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Numerous charity projects from Diaspora have always been implemented in Armenia, however, sometimes the Diaspora Armenians face different issues, which relate both to insufficient awareness, and bureaucratic hurdles.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Assist with the activities of implementing and localising the charity projects from Diaspora. Assist with the implementation of charity projects in the educational and cultural sector by Diaspora in rural communities of the Republic of Armenia, by also providing the list of priority needs. It is envisaged to create an information platform, where the priority needs of the communities of the Republic of Armenia will be presented.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Assistance for the implementation of charity projects implemented by Diaspora in the communities of Armenia and Artsakh. In 2024, it is envisaged to provide assistance for at least 3 investment projects. Starting in 2024, assistance provided to Artsakh communities will cease.

Cadastre Committee	
N/N	RATIONALE
1.	<p>1.1 Training of specialists of Spatial Data Management (GIS)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action of integrated cadastre is the establishment of state unified information system with spatial reference, which centralises the complete textual and graphical data on natural and man-made resources of the Republic, legal status and value thereof, and is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the resource management.</p> <p>Laws of the Republic of Armenia, decisions of the Government, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia are subject to adoption for the implementation of the action; Article 153 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 4 of Section 1 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 14 February 2019, Section 6.5 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia N AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 505-L "On approving the Strategic Programme for Establishing the Integrated Cadastre" of 8 April 2021 serve as bases for adoption.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The legislation — codes and laws — regulating a number of sectors of economic management of the Republic of Armenia defined functions for objects under the management of sectors of relevant management bodies, maintaining the property and resource cadastres, however, they have not been implemented mostly, and in some cases information funds or systems have been established from other independent and uncoordinated sectors, which causes serious difficulties for elaborating and effectively implementing the state complex programmes.</p> <p>It is explicit that the maintenance of sectoral cadastres may be incomparably more effective, by including them in a complete unified system. It is a complex of interconnected and mutually agreed cadastres and registers with common and unified methodical principles and information basis. Taking into consideration the necessity for ensuring the interoperability of relevant systems of entities maintaining sectoral cadastres, it is envisaged to enable the mentioned entities (including infrastructure management organisations) to take part in drawing up terms of reference of National Geoportal.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Considerable work has been carried out in the Cadastre Committee for establishing basic geoinformation systems. The basic geoinformation systems of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor have been elaborated with the application of modern digital technologies. Necessary professional experience, relevant technical means have been acquired, personnel has been trained. The information bank accumulated in the subdivisions of the Committee and the geoinformation system base provide an opportunity to organise and coordinate the establishment of information bank of thematic cadastres of sectors and by completing them include in the integrated cadastre and geoinformation system.</p>

	<p>By Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 1006-A of 26 July 2019 an inter-agency commission for the implementation of the action was established, which includes co-implementing bodies Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Urban Development Committee, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Yerevan Municipality, Infrastructure management organisations. The actions to be taken in connection with the action by the mentioned bodies will be approved by the working order of the commission to be established.</p> <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of specialists of Spatial Data Management (GIS); 2. Creating sectoral components of the Integrated Cadastre and fully operating the system according to the preparedness of the sectors; 3. Drawing up a terms of reference of national geoportal, acquiring and operating a programme; 4. Establishing and introducing a pilot sectoral cadastre; 5. Rental of computer server kits. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Establishing a unified automated information resource based on interconnected information documents; (2) Creating a database of sectoral cadastres — creating a single unified information resource on the basis of information documents interconnected by the union of branch cadastres having geographical dimensions with spatial reference of data, by ensuring integration of the relevant branch cadastres into one unified platform; (3) Launching software modules of basic and thematic layers, a national geoportal and defining a hierarchy of availability thereof; (4) Fast and efficient management of areas, economy, natural resources, environmental, urban development and other processes; (5) Adopting decisions substantiated by complex analysis of the situation through interconnected, reliable information in real-time mode, by reducing the time provided to written forms of agreements; (6) Saving funds and labour resources; (7) High level of awareness and access to information; (8) Speed and effectiveness of introducing the latest innovation technologies and technical means. <p>1.2 Creating sectoral components of the Integrated Cadastre and fully operating the system according to the preparedness of the sectors</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>
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	<p>The implementation of the action of integrated cadastre is the establishment of state unified information system with spatial reference, which centralises the complete textual and graphical data on natural and man-made resources of the Republic, legal status and value thereof, and is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the resource management.</p> <p>Laws of the Republic of Armenia, decisions of the Government, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia are subject to adoption for the implementation of the action; Article 153 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 4 of Section 1 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 14 February 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The legislation — codes and laws — regulating a number of sectors of economic management of the Republic of Armenia defined functions for objects under the management of sectors of relevant management bodies, maintaining the property and resource cadastres, however, they have not been implemented mostly, and in some cases information funds or systems have been established from other independent and uncoordinated sectors, which causes serious difficulties for elaborating and effectively implementing the state complex programmes.</p> <p>It is explicit that the maintenance of sectoral cadastres may be incomparably more effective, by including them in a complete unified system. It is a complex of interconnected and mutually agreed cadastres and registers with common and unified methodical principles and information basis</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Considerable work has been carried out in the Cadastre Committee for establishing basic geoinformation systems. The basic geoinformation systems of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor have been elaborated with the application of modern digital technologies. Necessary professional experience, relevant technical means have been acquired, personnel has been trained. The information bank accumulated in the subdivisions of the Committee and the geoinformation system base provide an opportunity to organise and coordinate the establishment of information bank of thematic cadastres of sectors and by completing them include in the integrated cadastre and geoinformation system.</p> <p>By Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1006-A of 26 July 2019 an inter-agency commission for the implementation of the action was established, which includes co-implementing bodies Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Urban Development Committee, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Yerevan Municipality, Infrastructure management organisations. The actions to be taken in connection with the action by the mentioned bodies are approved by the working order of the established commission.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Creating a database of sectoral cadastres — creating a single unified information resource on the basis of information documents interconnected by the union of branch cadastres having geographical dimensions with spatial reference of data, by ensuring integration of the relevant branch cadastres into one unified platform.</p>
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	<p>1.3 Drawing up a terms of reference of national geoportal, acquiring and operating a programme</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action of integrated cadastre is the establishment of state unified information system with spatial reference, which centralises the complete textual and graphical data on natural and man-made resources of the Republic, legal status and value thereof, and is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the resource management.</p> <p>Laws of the Republic of Armenia, decisions of the Government, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia are subject to adoption for the implementation of the action; Article 153 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 4 of Section 1 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 14 February 2019.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The legislation — codes and laws — regulating a number of sectors of economic management of the Republic of Armenia defined functions for objects under the management of sectors of relevant management bodies, maintaining the property and resource cadastres, however, they have not been implemented mostly, and in some cases information funds or systems have been established from other independent and uncoordinated sectors, which causes serious difficulties for elaborating and effectively implementing the state complex programmes.</p> <p>It is explicit that the maintenance of sectoral cadastres may be incomparably more effective, by including them in a complete unified system. It is a complex of interconnected and mutually agreed cadastres and registers with common and unified methodical principles and information basis</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Considerable work has been carried out in the Cadastre Committee for establishing basic geoinformation systems. The basic geoinformation systems of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor have been elaborated with the application of modern digital technologies. Necessary professional experience, relevant technical means have been acquired, personnel has been trained. The information bank accumulated in the subdivisions of the Committee and the geoinformation system base provide an opportunity to organise and coordinate the establishment of information bank of thematic cadastres of sectors and by completing them include in the integrated cadastre and geoinformation system.</p> <p>By Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1006-A of 26 July 2019 an inter-agency commission for the implementation of the action was established, which includes co-implementing bodies Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Urban Development Committee, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Yerevan Municipality, Infrastructure management organisations. The actions to be taken in connection with the action by the mentioned bodies are approved by the working order of the established commission.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Launching software modules of basic and thematic layers, a national geoportal and defining a hierarchy of availability thereof.</p>
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	<p>1.4 Establishing and introducing a pilot sectoral cadastre</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action of integrated cadastre is the establishment of state unified information system with spatial reference, which centralises the complete textual and graphical data on natural and man-made resources of the Republic, legal status and value thereof, and is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the resource management.</p> <p>Laws of the Republic of Armenia, decisions of the Government, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia are subject to adoption for the implementation of the action; Article 153 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 4 of Section 1 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 14 February 2019.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The legislation — codes and laws — regulating a number of sectors of economic management of the Republic of Armenia defined functions for objects under the management of sectors of relevant management bodies, maintaining the property and resource cadastres, however, they have not been implemented mostly, and in some cases information funds or systems have been established from other independent and uncoordinated sectors, which causes serious difficulties for elaborating and effectively implementing the state complex programmes.</p> <p>It is explicit that the maintenance of sectoral cadastres may be incomparably more effective, by including them in a complete unified system. It is a complex of interconnected and mutually agreed cadastres and registers with common and unified methodical principles and information basis</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Considerable work has been carried out in the Cadastre Committee for establishing basic geoinformation systems. The basic geoinformation systems of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor have been elaborated with the application of modern digital technologies. Necessary professional experience, relevant technical means have been acquired, personnel has been trained. The information bank accumulated in the subdivisions of the Committee and the geoinformation system base provide an opportunity to organise and coordinate the establishment of information bank of thematic cadastres of sectors and by completing them include in the integrated cadastre and geoinformation system.</p> <p>By Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1006-A of 26 July 2019 an inter-agency commission for the implementation of the action was established, which includes co-implementing bodies Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Urban Development Committee, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Yerevan Municipality, Infrastructure management organisations. The actions to be taken in connection with the action by the mentioned bodies are approved by the working order of the established commission.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Establishing and introducing a single-sector cadastre which will enable to identify practical issues of integration and, where necessary,</p>
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	make edits to the legal acts developed by the previous steps and other operational documents.
	<p>1.5 Rental of computer server kit.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>At the sitting of the Information Systems Management Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) on 28 and 29 June, 2024 (Protocol KhA/13-2024), it was decided to abandon the purchase of new servers for the modernisation of the server systems of the Cadastre Committee. Subsequently, At the sitting of the Council of 27 September, 2024 (Protocol KhA/10-2024), it was decided to address the migration of server systems to the cloud in accordance with the solution plan discussed and approved in cooperation with the Ministry of High Tech Industry, Information Systems Agency of Armenia and the Cadastre Committee, through a step-by-step approach. Given the lengthy process of transferring the Cadastre Committee’s information systems to the cloud domain (which will take at least one year) and the potential depletion of the current server system’s capacity, it was decided, at the first stage, to temporarily expand the server system (through server kit) by renting additional resources, before fully transferring it to the cloud domain.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the following systems are included in the server system: Unified Electronic Database of the Cadastre Committee, E-Services Platform of Cadastre Committee (e-cadastre.am), national geoportal cartographic system (maparmenia.am), docs.e-cadastre.am electronic system for submission of documents required for state registration of rights and restrictions in respect of immovable property, mobile application for provision of services. These servers contain scanned documents as well as databases of cadastral cases. They perform the functions of state property rights registration and provide information regarding properties, as well as web services to state administration bodies. Due to the expansion of electronic services provided by the Cadastre Committee, the need has arisen to increase the capacity and storage of servers for process management and data storage. The current capacities are insufficient to fully support the delivery of these services.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>To ensure the smooth operation of the Cadastre Committee’s information systems, the capacity of the server systems should be replenished with compatible components, particularly server and storage systems, to provide uninterrupted, high-quality services for at least one year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Due to the transfer of the Cadastre Committee's information systems to the cloud (a process expected to take at least one year), a temporary rental of server system kits will be carried out .</p>
	<p>2.1 Elaborating and modernising the normative-technical and legal documents concerning the spatial data, metadata banks of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a system for technologies, legal regulations, standards, human resources and related actions, which is necessary to</p>

	<p>make the creation, collection, preservation, processing, dissemination and use of spatial data effective and flexible.</p> <p>The action is aimed at establishing an infrastructure (standard) of National Spatial Data, which will guide all the interested parties dealing with spatial data.</p> <p>A necessity is arising for adopting regulatory legal acts for the implementation of the action on the basis of Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geodesy, cartography and spatial data infrastructure".</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>No national SDI has been established in the Republic of Armenia so far, which has caused uncoordinated actions of individuals and organisations dealing with spatial data.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>All those approaches — which are clarified within the scope of standards to be elaborated — necessary for creating, preserving and disseminating spatial data, will be agreed with the co-implementing body of the action — the Ministry of High-Tech Industry. The requirements for ensuring quality will be prescribed, and metadata album will be created.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adopting a legal act on data policy, prescribing the requirements for the thematic layers</p>
	<p>2.2 Localising INSPIRE directives related to the EU spatial data and harmonising them with the normative-technical and legal documents operating in the fields of geodesy and cartography of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a system for technologies, legal regulations, standards, human resources and related actions, which is necessary to make the creation, collection, preservation, processing, dissemination and use of spatial data effective and flexible.</p> <p>The action is aimed at establishing an infrastructure (standard) of National Spatial Data, which will guide all the interested parties dealing with spatial data.</p> <p>A necessity is arising for adopting regulatory legal acts for the implementation of the action on the basis of Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geodesy, cartography and spatial data infrastructure".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>No national SDI has been established in the Republic of Armenia so far, which has caused uncoordinated actions of individuals and organisations dealing with spatial data.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p>

	<p>A national spatial data infrastructure (standard) will be introduced.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Introducing a national spatial data infrastructure (standards)</p>
2.	<p>2. Regulating the legal framework.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a system for technologies, legal regulations, standards, human resources and related actions, which is necessary to make the creation, collection, preservation, processing, dissemination and use of spatial data effective and flexible. The action is aimed at establishing an infrastructure (standard) of National Spatial Data, which will guide all the interested parties dealing with spatial data. A necessity is arising for adopting regulatory legal acts for the implementation of the action on the basis of Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geodesy and cartography".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>No national SDI has been established in the Republic of Armenia so far, which has caused uncoordinated actions of individuals and organisations dealing with spatial data.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>All those approaches — which are clarified within the scope of standards to be elaborated — necessary for creating, preserving and disseminating spatial data, will be agreed with the co-implementing body of the action — the Ministry of High-Tech Industry. The requirements for ensuring quality will be prescribed, and metadata album will be created.</p> <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elaborating and modernising normative-technical and legal documents concerning the state, sectoral, territorial and community spatial data, as well as metadata banks of the Republic of Armenia; 2. Localising INSPIRE directives related to the EU spatial data and harmonising them with the normative-technical and legal documents operating in the fields of geodesy and cartography of the Republic of Armenia; 3. Regulating the legal framework. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action, package of legal regulations and standards necessary for the elaboration and introduction of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure will be created.</p>

3.	<p>3.1 Aerial photography of the territory of the Republic, works of creating a model of orthophoto layouts and a digital elevation model</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 86-N of 16 January 2014, newly emerged spatial data and facilities containing topographic elements will be placed on topographic maps for the purpose of modernising the topographic maps of scale range of the Republic of Armenia. These works will be continuous. At the same time, it is necessary to transfer the already created digital maps of the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia into ArcGis software package.</p> <p>The implementation of the action is mainly aimed at establishing a basic geoinformation system in the Republic of Armenia that meets modern requirements, which is necessary for the state and local self government bodies to effectively settle the issues of different sectors of economy, establish a state uniform information bank (both cartography and textual) on natural and economic resources of the Republic and increase the effectiveness of resource management of the Republic.</p> <p>For the effective management of natural and economic resources of the Republic it is necessary to have reliable and complete information on the economic situation and natural resources of the Republic of Armenia and separate administrative territorial units thereof, including information on land, water, forest resources, minerals, economic development, industrial and agricultural enterprises, immoveable property, population distribution, road network, and other elements of infrastructures, ecological situation.</p> <p>The implementation of the action does not cause necessity to adopt regulatory legal acts.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>State maps of scale ranges of the Republic of Armenia that have been moved to GIS environment, serve as a basis for cartographic materials to be created for the purpose of settling the issues of different agency sectors (urban development, environment, industry, cadastre, territorial planning, record-registration of agricultural lands, unification of lands, drawing up schemes for land unification, utilisation and zoning, administrative and economic activity, melioration, geological research works, forestry, etc.).</p> <p>Aerial photography of the territory of the Republic has been planned and carried out in 2014 by the Norwegian grant for the purpose of creating orthophoto layouts with a resolution of 10 cm in Yerevan, with a resolution of 20 cm for the cities of Gyumri and Vanadzor and on a scale of 1:2000 for territories adjacent to other cities and settlements.</p> <p>All the topographic maps of scale ranges have been moved to ArcGIS environment since 2013, and the topographic layouts of the cities of the Republic of Armenia have been already created in GIS environment since 2015. In 2005-2012, works of establishing basic geoinformation systems have been carried out in that direction in all administrative districts of the city of Yerevan, which were mainly aimed at creating and managing an information bank of cartographic and textual data on geographical names, land fund, targeted and operational significance of immoveable property, land types, hydrography, relief, objects of line infrastructures. These materials are subject to update in case funding is available. The works of establishing a basic geoinformation system of the cities of Gyumri and Vanadzor were over in 2016-2017, and those of the cities of Sevan and Spitak — in 2017-2018.</p>
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	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The project is mainly aimed at providing the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia with new orthophoto layouts, the maps created with the application whereof are necessary for the state and local self-government bodies to effectively settle the issues of different sectors of economy, establish a state uniform information bank and increase the effectiveness of resource management of the Republic.</p> <p>Establishing and introducing a geoinformation system at state level will enable to exclude the adoption of decisions with insufficient substantiation and move to a qualitatively new level of state administration.</p> <p>Using the modern geoinformation system in the field of state administration and local self-governance will contribute to the effective elaboration of economic programmes of marzes and communities of the Republic of Armenia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) increasing the level of standardisation of collection and processing of data necessary for the management; (b) excluding irrelevant copying of spatial information and inconsistency of data used in different spheres of economy; (c) facilitating the process of creating spatial data, increasing the efficiency and reducing costs; (d) ensuring access to spatial data, ensuring accessibility to information for the public; (e) elaborating internal mechanisms for verification of integrity, reliability, accuracy of data; (f) ensuring the modernisation and continuity of spatial data. <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aerial photography of the territory of the Republic, works of creating a model of orthophoto layouts and a digital elevation model; 2. Works of creating cartographic basis of the settlements of the Republic of Armenia in the geo-information system. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of these activities, it is envisaged to have an updated chronological series of orthophoto layouts and a digital elevation model of the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia, database of spatial data of settlements of the Republic of Armenia and cartographic basis, updated chronological series of cartographic basis of cities of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>3.2 Works of creating cartographic basis of the settlements of the Republic of Armenia in the geo-information system</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 86-N of 16 January 2014, newly emerged spatial data and facilities containing topographic elements will be placed on topographic maps for the purpose of modernising the topographic maps of scale range of</p>

the Republic of Armenia. These works will be continuous. At the same time, it is necessary to move the already created digital maps of the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia to GIS environment.

The implementation of the action is mainly aimed at establishing a basic geoinformation system in the Republic of Armenia that meets modern requirements, which is necessary for the state and local self government bodies to effectively settle the issues of different sectors of economy, establish a state uniform information bank (both cartography and textual) on natural and economic resources of the Republic and increase the effectiveness of resource management of the Republic.

For the effective management of natural and economic resources of the Republic it is necessary to have reliable and complete information on the economic situation and natural resources of the Republic of Armenia and separate administrative territorial units thereof, including information on land, water, forest resources, minerals, economic development, industrial and agricultural enterprises, immoveable property, population distribution, road network, and other elements of infrastructures, ecological situation.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

State maps of scale ranges of the Republic of Armenia that have been moved to GIS environment, serve as a basis for cartographic materials to be created for the purpose of settling the issues of different agency sectors (urban development, environment, industry, cadastre, territorial planning, record-registration of agricultural lands, unification of lands, drawing up schemes for land unification, utilisation and zoning, administrative and economic activity, melioration, geological research works, forestry, etc.).

Aerial photography of the territory of the Republic has been planned and carried out in 2014 by the Norwegian grant for the purpose of creating orthophoto layouts with a resolution of 10 cm in Yerevan, with a resolution of 20 cm for the cities of Gyumri and Vanadzor and on a scale of 1:2000 for territories adjacent to other cities and settlements.

All the topographic maps of scale ranges have been moved to GIS environment since 2013, and the topographic layouts of the cities of the Republic of Armenia have been already created in GIS environment since 2015.

In 2005-2012, works of establishing basic geoinformation systems have been carried out in that direction in all administrative districts of the city of Yerevan, which were mainly aimed at creating and managing an information bank of cartographic and textual data on geographical names, land fund, targeted and operational significance of immoveable property, land types, hydrography, relief, objects of line infrastructures. These materials are subject to update in case funding is available.

The works of establishing a basic geoinformation system of the cities of Gyumri and Vanadzor were over in 2016-2017, and those of the cities of Sevan and Spitak — in 2017-2018.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The project is mainly aimed at providing the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia with new orthophoto layouts, the maps created with the application

	<p>whereof are necessary for the state and local self-government bodies to effectively settle the issues of different sectors of economy, establish a state uniform information bank and increase the effectiveness of resource management of the Republic.</p> <p>Establishing and introducing a geoinformation system at state level will enable to exclude the adoption of decisions with insufficient substantiation and move to a qualitatively new level of state administration.</p> <p>Using the modern geoinformation system in the field of state administration and local self-governance will contribute to:</p> <p>the effective elaboration of economic programmes of marzes and communities of the Republic of Armenia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) increasing the level of standardisation of collection and processing of data necessary for the management; (b) excluding inappropriate duplication of spatial information and inconsistency of data used in different spheres of economy; (c) facilitating the process of creating spatial data, increasing the efficiency and reducing costs; (d) ensuring access to spatial data, ensuring accessibility to information for the public; (e) elaborating internal mechanisms for verification of integrity, reliability, accuracy of data; (f) ensuring the modernisation and continuity of spatial data. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Updated chronological series of cartographic basis of about 41000 hectare territory of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
4.	<p>4.1 Making amendments to the legal acts in force and introducing new regulations where necessary</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of legal acts (laws, decisions of the Government, orders and instructions), which will provide the opportunity to ensure the correction works of cadastral maps. The implementation of the action causes necessity to adopt regulatory legal acts.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The correction of misprints detected in cadastral layouts and maps is carried out by the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 698-N of 29 April 2021 "On establishing the procedure for correction of misprints in cadastral maps", Order of the Chairperson of the State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 51-N of 26 February 2009 "On approving the instruction for carrying out cadastral mapping works". A necessity has arisen to implement new regulations.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to make amendment to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 698-N of 29 April 2021.</p>

	<p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making amendments to the legal acts in force, new regulations, upon necessity; 2. Works of cadastral map correction of the communities of the Republic of Armenia covered by orthophoto layouts; 3. Observing additional points for the purpose of correcting cadastral blocks of the communities of the Republic of Armenia. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Corrected cadastral layouts of communities fully covered by orthophoto layouts of the Republic of Armenia. Full correction of external borders of cadastral blocks of communities of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Corrected cadastral maps, which will cause reduction of extra judicial and judicial disputes of immovable property.</p> <p>Activities of correcting cadastral maps are also important in terms of the following: during the pre-election campaign of the 2021 early parliamentary elections, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia made pre-election promises and assignments on building kindergartens, schools, reservoirs. The corrected cadastral maps will provide an opportunity to uphold the mentioned promises and assignments timely and without additional obstacles.</p>
	<p>4.2 Works of cadastral map correction of the communities of the Republic of Armenia covered by orthophoto layouts</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The objective of the action is detecting, identifying properties that have received state registration of rights, but are not included in the cadastral map and reflecting them in the cadastral map, as well as correcting data in the Armenian Real Property Information System (ARPIS).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, there are many state-registered property units the cadastral files whereof lack map and layout data and/or the property is not reflected in the cadastral map, which leads to many problems in the processes of cadastral map management and state registration of property rights.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Detecting, identifying properties that have received state registration of rights, but are not included in the cadastral map through field surveying, office decoding and co-operation with community representatives, drawing up layout plans/schemes for reflection thereof in the cadastral map and correcting data in the Armenian Real Property Information System (ARPIS).</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the performance of works, we will have updated and corrected cadastral maps and database of properties.</p>
	<p>4.3 Observing additional points for the purpose of correcting cadastral blocks of the communities of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for</p>

	<p>and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The objective of the action is observing additional points, where necessary, during the correction of the cadastral maps of the communities covered by orthophoto layouts obtained through satellite photography at the initiative of the Cadastre Committee.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>During 2021, drawing up of orthophoto layouts of the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia through aerial photography and space photography was carried out. The obtained orthophoto layouts serve as a basis for correcting errors found in cadastral layouts and maps, pursuant to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 698-N of 29 April 2021 "On establishing the procedure for correction of errors found in the cadastral map". Based on the specifics of the orthophoto layouts obtained as a result of satellite images, it is necessary to observe additional points in order to correct the cadastral maps more accurately.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Make the correction of the errors found in the cadastral maps based on the orthophoto layouts and, where necessary, on the points surveyed.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Surveying up to 25 points in each community being corrected, where necessary.</p>
5.	<p>5.1 Condensing, balancing the network, modernising software, updating server node</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Within the scope of Programme "Tools for effective management of land resources" jointly implemented with the Centre for Property Rights and Development of Mapping and Cadastre Authority (Statens Kartverk) of the Kingdom of Norway, a network consisting of twelve permanently operating reference stations — which are equally distributed throughout the whole territory of the Republic of Armenia — has been created in 2013 in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>For the purpose of providing the territory of the Republic of Armenia with coverage of "Reference Stations", 12 permanently operating stations with a radius of 40 km have been established, which have been installed in convenient places. When selecting those places, the following has been taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) distance of coverages with adjacent reference stations (40 km); (2) existence of large settlements; (3) connection through main roads; (4) existence of meteorological stations.

	<p>For the operation of stations to be more effective and work uninterruptedly, the following circumstances have been taken into consideration when choosing the place of installation of the permanently operating station in real time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) ensuring the visibility of sky; (6) antenna stabilisation; (7) reflection of waves; (8) preservation of equipment; (9) physical security; (10) weather conditions of the place of installation; (11) availability of power supply and highway connection. <p>Moreover, 8 geodetic points have also been involved in balancing activities of determining the coordinates. The calculation of coordinates has been carried out within the scope of international standard reference (ITRF2008/IGS08). Ultimately they have been converted to ARMREF02 system, by using the reference coordinates of certain reference stations operating permanently (CORS).</p> <p>ARMREF02 is an official geodetic reference system for Armenia, which complies with the World Geodetic Reference System (ITRS) through the ITRF2000 epoch 2002.9. The implementation of the action does not cause the necessity to adopt regulatory legal acts.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Permanently operating reference stations have been considered and calculated with the range of 20-day, 30-day sampling amount of GPS C1/L1/P2/L2 measurements performed from 22 September 2013 until 11 October (265-284 days of the year). Based on the requirements for rapid and accurate implementation of topographic and geodetic works planned in the territory of the Republic of Armenia in the near future, a necessity has arisen to condense the network of permanently operating reference stations in real time, increasing the stations by 2 others.</p> <p>Since most of the topographic and geodetic works in the Republic of Armenia are carried out in the densely populated and built-up region of the city of Yerevan and Ararat Valley, a necessity has arisen to install one of the stations in the city of Yerevan.</p> <p>It is expedient to install the station envisaged in Yerevan on the parent material in the form of geodetic ground base, for it to be possible to more accurately follow the vertical and horizontal movements of the earth's crust (since 12 permanently operating reference stations are installed on the roofs of buildings).</p> <p>Co-operation with the permanently operating stations of the Republic of Georgia is envisaged in the northern areas; therefore, it is expedient to install the second reference station in the city of Tashir for carrying out the works of envisaged delimitation and demarcation of the Armenian-Georgian border with high accuracy.</p>
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	<p>The management of the network of permanently operating reference stations is carried out at Control Centre through the powerful server, relevant software existing in the technical base of subdivision "Centre for Information Technologies".</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The new permanently operating stations provide an opportunity to receive the coordinates of location in real time for the above-mentioned region through GPS rover station, in the range of coverage, short period of time, and the data whereof will be applied in numerous location fields. As a development of the field of geodesy, with the introduction of two new permanently operating reference stations to be established, the number thereof will be brought to 14.</p> <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Condensing, balancing the network, modernising software, updating server node. 2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action <p>After the implementation of the project it is envisaged to have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) two permanently operating reference stations in designated regions; (2) balanced coordinates of locations of two reference stations; (3) a network connected to the International Satellite Navigation System of 14 reference stations permanently operating in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
6.	<p>6.1 Maintaining and updating the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia and creating directories.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The activities of maintaining and updating the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia are continuous and stem from the requirements of Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical names". The necessity for preparing and publishing directories stems from the requirements of part 1 of Article 9 and part 1 of Article 13 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical names" and plays a significant role in news, scientific, educational, cartographic and other sectors.</p> <p>The necessity thereof is conditioned by the circumstance that there has been an increase in Armenian-language publishing products in recent years, new TV and radio companies, publishing houses, newspapers and magazines have been created, in materials submitted whereby numerous geographical names are included. For the purpose of avoiding inaccuracies and gross misprints, it is very important to have a reliable and official directory, wherethrough the exact spelling of geographical names will be presented.</p> <p>As a result of implementing the activities, the directories received are necessary for state administration and local self-government bodies, as well as relevant state organisations, educational and scientific institutions.</p>

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The project is mainly aimed at maintaining the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia for development and increase in effectiveness of the sector compliant with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical names", establishing information bank of geographical names outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia and publishing various directories and dictionaries on-line.

In accordance with the requirements of the "Procedure for record-registering and registering geographical names of the Republic of Armenia, creating and maintaining a state information bank" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 502 of 9 June 2001, the works of record-registering and registering the geographical names of all marzes of the Republic of Armenia finished in 2002-2007, at the same time, the state information bank of geographical names — which is being updated regularly — has been created.

During 2002-2014 activities of record-registration of more than 41000 geographical facilities in the territory of the Republic of Armenia has been conducted. As a result of the activity of the Professional Commission of Naming and Re-Naming the Geographic Objects of the Republic of Armenia established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved the names of geographical objects of 10 marzes and city of Yerevan of the Republic of Armenia. During 2009-2017, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved around 3200 new names of geographical facilities, respectively, as a result of updating the state information bank of geographical names. More than 41 thousand names of geographical objects of 10 marzes and city of Yerevan of the Republic of Armenia have been registered. Fifty-nine settlements of the Republic of Armenia have been re-named; it is also envisaged to re-name other 21 settlements. As a result of activities performed in this field, gazetteers — the official directories of geographical names of marzes of the Republic of Armenia, have been published, wherein the names of geographical objects in the territories of marzes of the Republic of Armenia are included. "Dictionary of settlements of the Republic of Armenia", "Concise directory-dictionary of physical and geographical objects of the Republic of Armenia", "List of exonyms of geographical names in the Armenian Language", "Directory of administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Armenia", "Concise directory of historical and architectural monuments of the Republic of Armenia", "Concise directory of orographic objects of the Republic of Armenia", as well as "Concise directory-dictionary of world states" and "Concise directory-dictionary of the largest and most important cities in the world" have also been published.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In the sector of geographical names, carry out works on creating on-line and printed dictionaries and directories in addition to the works of maintaining and updating the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia, which is of continuous nature.

The following actions will be implemented:

1. Maintaining and updating the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia and creating directories.
2. Ensuring relevant layers of National Spatial Data Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Creating amended and recovered Armenian printed dictionaries and directories of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia and the world.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>1. Creating an amended and recovered Armenian electronic database of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia, ensuring relevant layers of National Spatial Data Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Printing amended and recovered Armenian dictionaries and directories of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia and the world, which is necessary for the state, scientific and educational systems.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Creating an amended and recovered Armenian electronic database of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia, ensuring relevant layers of National Spatial Data Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
	<p>6.2 Creating amended and recovered Armenian printed dictionaries and directories of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia and the world</p> <p>1. 1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The activities of maintaining and updating the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia are continuous and stem from the requirements of Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical names". ". The necessity for preparing and publishing directories stems from the requirements of part 1 of Article 9 and part 1 of Article 13 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical names" and plays a significant role in news, scientific, educational, cartographic and other sectors.</p> <p>The necessity thereof is conditioned by the circumstance that there has been an increase in Armenian-language publishing products in recent years, new TV and radio companies, publishing houses, newspapers and magazines have been created, in materials submitted whereby numerous geographical names are included. . For the purpose of avoiding inaccuracies and gross misprints, it is very important to have a reliable and official directory, through which the exact spelling of geographical names will be presented.</p> <p>The directories compiled as a result of implemented activities are necessary for state administration and local self-government bodies, as well as relevant state organisations, educational and scientific institutions.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The project is mainly aimed at maintaining the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia for development and increase in effectiveness of the sector compliant with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geographical names", establishing information bank of geographical names outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia and publishing various directories and dictionaries on-line.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the "Procedure for record-registering and registering geographical names of the Republic of Armenia, creating and maintaining a state information bank" approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 502 of 9 June 2001, the works of record-registering and registering the geographical names of all marzes of the Republic of Armenia finished in 2002-2007, at the same time, the state information</p>

	<p>bank of geographical names — which is being updated regularly — has been created.</p> <p>During 2002-2014 activities of record-registration of more than 41000 geographical facilities in the territory of the Republic of Armenia has been conducted. As a result of the activity of the Professional Commission of Naming and Re-Naming the Geographic Objects of the Republic of Armenia established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved the names of geographical objects of 10 marzes and city of Yerevan of the Republic of Armenia. During 2009-2017, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved around 3200 new names of geographical facilities, respectively, as a result of updating the state information bank of geographical names. More than 41 thousand names of geographical objects of 10 marzes and city of Yerevan of the Republic of Armenia have been registered. Fifty-nine settlements of the Republic of Armenia have been re-named; it is also envisaged to re-name other 21 settlements. As a result of activities performed in this field, gazetteers — the official directories of geographical names of marzes of the Republic of Armenia have been published, wherein the names of geographical objects in the territories of marzes of the Republic of Armenia are included. "Dictionary of settlements of the Republic of Armenia", "Concise directory-dictionary of physical and geographical objects of the Republic of Armenia", "List of exonyms of geographical names in the Armenian Language", "Directory of administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Armenia", "Concise directory of historical and architectural monuments of the Republic of Armenia", "Concise directory of orographic objects of the Republic of Armenia", as well as "Concise directory-dictionary of world states" and "Concise directory-dictionary of the largest and most important cities in the world" have also been published.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In the sector of geographical names, carry out works on creating on-line and printed dictionaries and directories in addition to the works of maintaining and updating the state information bank of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia, which is of continuous nature.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Printing amended and recovered Armenian dictionaries and directories of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia and the world, which is necessary for the state, scientific and educational systems.</p>
7.	<p>7.1 Atlas in a new format — printed, multilingual, as well as with an option to be posted on the Internet</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Thematic cartography is considered as a sector of state significance. It is also enshrined in point "g" of part 4 of Article 2 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geodesy, cartography and spatial data infrastructure". Publications of cartography of state significance are deemed to be official materials, whereto reference can be made and which can be used to receive reliable information.</p> <p>The basic atlases (National Atlas, World Big Atlas, Yerevan Atlas), as well as the educational maps and atlases containing reliable material envisaged for the educational system are among those activities.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>As a result of the activities implemented in the field, A and B volumes of the National Atlas of Armenia have been published before, the works of creating the English version of volume A of the National Atlas of Armenia have are also continuing, and 1 unified volume in the Russian Language, as well as 32 named educational maps are also being prepared.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking as a basis the provisions of the above-mentioned Article of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On geodesy, cartography and spatial data infrastructure" and taking into consideration the large demand of users, a necessity has arisen to create a new basic atlas — creation of new National Atlas of Armenia — at state level. It is substantiated by the fact that it is envisaged to carry out works of creating an official directory of world geographical names, as a result whereof the large-scale material created will be used for preparing that atlas.</p> <p>The National Atlas of Armenia, World Big Atlas, Officer's Atlas and similar other necessary atlases will be re-published in a new format based on cartographic materials created before.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Updated multilingual atlases.</p>
8.	<p>8.1 Exchanging experience and acquiring skills to apply new and modern methods, within the scope of cooperation with international partners, to enhance the accuracy of the current elevation model of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Recognising the importance of effective and accurate geodetic work within the Republic of Armenia, the goal is to improve the accuracy of the current elevation model. As part of this project, an objective has been set to exchange experience and acquire skills for applying new, modern methods through cooperation with international partners.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The state national geodetic network of classes 0, 1 and 2 within the territory of the Republic of Armenia was established between 2002 and 2006. In the period from 2008 up to 2018 works related to creation of the elevation model were carried out, which followed the works of installation of fundamental national geodetic points of classes 0, 1 and 2 throughout the territory of the Republic of Armenia, of balancing and cataloging of these points in the WGS-84 coordinate system, as well as the updating of the levelling networks for Class I and II of the state geodetic elevation network of the Republic of Armenia, were carried out between 2003 and 2007. Considering the above, there is a need to develop a more accurate elevation model using new and modern technologies and methods. To achieve the mentioned end result and organise the process effectively, the presence of specialists with the necessary skills and capabilities is a key prerequisite.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to improve the accuracy of the Republic of Armenia's elevation model through new and modern approaches and methods, including the</p>

	<p>installation of new points, surveying, and comprehensive data development and to conduct an exchange of experience on these tasks through cooperation with international partners.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Opportunities to achieve a more accurate elevation model for the Republic of Armenia will be assessed, and a more effective method for conducting geodetic works—using airspace technologies and gravimetric measurements—will be proposed.</p> <p>Installing, surveying new points and elaborating data entirely for increasing the level of accuracy of the existing elevation model.</p>
9	<p>9.1 Compiling maps through the method of generalisation</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Multiscale digital maps are created based on basic cartographic layers throughout the Republic of Armenia, with data represented at different scales. These maps are designed to ensure visual consistency and effectively communicate information to the user.</p> <p>Newly emerged spatial data and facilities containing topographic elements will be placed on topographic maps for the purpose of modernising the topographic maps of scale range of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>The action is mainly aimed at establishing a basic geoinformation system, as well as integrating it into a national geoportal. It is necessary both for state and local self-government bodies for effective settlement of issues in different sectors.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Digitisation of basic layers on the basis of orthophotos.</p> <p>Updating the scale range of topographic maps by orthophotos in a constructive way.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The action is aimed at creating multiscale basic cartographic layers, with the application whereof, the created maps are necessary for state and local self-government bodies for effectively settling the issues of different sectors.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Having multiscale basic cartographic layers.</p>
10.	<p>10.1 Elaborating the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property", submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p>

	<p>The implementation of the action is aimed at significantly simplifying and facilitating the use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee, providing an opportunity to make use thereof without appearing before the body maintaining the cadastre and excluding — to the extent possible — direct contact between citizens and officials within the shortest time possible, as well as reducing the workload of employees of cadastre and making the optimisation of the system and employees possible, as a result reducing the system maintenance costs and increasing incomes.</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property" is subject to adoption for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>ARPIS automated registration system has been elaborated and introduced since 2012. It is an electronic document circulation system, which enables to electronically carry out both the receipt of applications and the issuance of certificates of state registration of rights and statements of information with regard to the provision of information.</p> <p>Having a unified electronic cadastral database and automated registration system provided an opportunity to make a transition to the state registration of rights and provision of information electronically. As a result, making use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee was facilitated; it became possible to provide electronic on-line services.</p> <p>Despite the aforementioned, the process of providing information is mainly carried out with the engagement of large human resources, since there is an issue of data integrity in electronic databases, and in case of each application it is necessary to make sure that the information requested is accurate and complete. The statements of information provided must be in paper form, since they are certified with the stamp of service offices.</p> <p>A system for providing certain information in an automatic way has been introduced since 2018; however, yet it does not have enough demand due to the limited information provided, as well as the fact that the statements of information provided were not stamped. The fact that citizens are not informed also hinders the development of the given service.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the existing issues, it is envisaged to enhance the types of information provided on-line, elaborate new information packages, establish an on-line spatial platform for information search, eliminate the requirement of provided final document being stamped, develop the web-site www.e-cadastre.am designated for providing electronic services, inform citizens, participants of immoveable property market on new services introduced and convenient ways of making use thereof.</p> <p>Activities to be carried out by the co-implementing bodies of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Compulsory Enforcement Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia — will be defined through creating a working group.</p>
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	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Regulating the legislative framework, as a result of which the documents required for the state registration of rights will be submitted by the bodies issuing them. In addition, they must be submitted only electronically through special channels or electronic information systems.</p>
	<p>10.2 Elaborating the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property", submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action is aimed at significantly simplifying and facilitating the use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee, providing an opportunity to make use thereof without appearing before the body maintaining the cadastre and excluding — to the extent possible — direct contact between citizens and officials within the shortest time possible, as well as reducing the workload of employees of cadastre and making the optimisation of the system and employees possible, as a result reducing the system maintenance costs and increasing incomes.</p> <p>Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property" is subject to adoption for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>ARPIS automated registration system has been elaborated and introduced since 2012. It is an electronic document circulation system, which enables to electronically carry out both the receipt of applications and the issuance of certificates of state registration of rights and statements of information with regard to the provision of information.</p> <p>Having a unified electronic cadastral database and automated registration system provided an opportunity to make a transition to the state registration of rights and provision of information electronically. As a result, making use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee was facilitated; it became possible to provide electronic on-line services.</p> <p>Despite the aforementioned, the process of providing information is mainly carried out with the engagement of large human resources, since there is an issue of data integrity in electronic databases, and in case of each application it is necessary to make sure that the information requested is accurate and complete. The statements of information provided must be in paper form, since they are certified with the stamp of service offices.</p> <p>A system for providing certain information in an automatic way has been introduced since 2018; however, yet it does not have enough demand due to the limited information provided, as well as the fact that the statements of information provided were not stamped. The fact that citizens are not informed also hinders the development of the given service.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the existing issues, it is envisaged to enhance the types of information provided on-line, elaborate new information packages, establish an on-line spatial platform for information search, eliminate the requirement of provided final document being stamped, develop the web-site</p>

	<p>www.e-cadastre.am designated for providing electronic services, inform citizens, participants of immoveable property market on new services introduced and convenient ways of making use thereof.</p> <p>Activities to be carried out by the co-implementing bodies of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Compulsory Enforcement Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia — will be defined through creating a working group.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Regulating the legislative framework, as a result of which the documents required for the application, amendment or termination of restrictions by the competent bodies applying the restriction will be submitted only electronically, through special channels between the Cadastre Committee and the relevant bodies and through electronic information systems under the on-line regime</p>
	<p>10.3 Verifying and identifying the scope of holders of rights, effective and expired, in the text database of the electronic system and those terminated, including on the basis of the information available in the communities and other state bodies</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the mentioned works will significantly contribute to the quick provision of data on the availability of immovable property (properties) belonging to a specific natural person, including online automatic method, as well as the application of restrictions (attachment) to the property belonging to the person. It is also aimed at facilitating the work of users of the electronic system and reducing working time, increasing efficiency and saving resources, reducing the workload of employees, significantly simplifying the procedure for obtaining information, reducing the time limits for providing information (with the possibility of obtaining it immediately after the request).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>During 2000-2006, in accordance with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 867 of 31 December 1998, within the framework of the first state registration of rights to immovable property, about 1,620,000 units of immovable property received free state registration of rights.</p> <p>Citizens acquired the mentioned properties mainly during 1991-1997, based on the laws of the Republic of Armenia "On peasant and peasant collective farms" or "On privatisation of the state, public and community housing fund of the Republic of Armenia".</p> <p>The basis for the state registration with regard to land parcels were mainly the extracts from the books (registries) of households in rural areas, decisions of the commissions for land reforms and privatisation, temporary certificates of the right to land ownership right, state acts on the right to land ownership, certificates of registration of the right to immovable property ownership (use), membership cards for gardeners, and with regard to apartments — ownership certificates and decisions of former executive committees on privatisation of apartments. Only the name and surname of the persons having participated in the privatisation are mentioned in such documents, and in some cases, also the father's name and/or date of birth. Naturally, when carrying</p>

	<p>out state registrations no data clearly identifying the natural person (passport number, Social Security Number, Identification card, etc.) was filled in, the number of which was about 2,376,000 as of 10 December 2020, and about 993,000 as of 14 November 2022. The lack of data for unambiguous identification does not allow the quick provision of data on the availability of immovable property (properties) belonging to a specific natural person, including online automatic method, as well as provision of accurate data in the case of application of restrictions (attachment) to the property belonging to the person.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Taking into account the fact that based on the Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On peasant and peasant collective farms" or "On privatisation of the state, public and community housing fund of the Republic of Armenia, the property was mainly privatised to specific family members who were record-registered in the same place at the time of privatisation, for the purpose of performing identification works effectively, filling in unambiguously identifying data of natural persons in the ARPIS electronic registration system operated by the Committee since 2012 based on the information provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia as a co-performer, as well as the relevant communities in order to perform the identification works effectively.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Identifying the holders of rights to immovable property, ensuring the accuracy of information provided on-line, enabling the automatic application of restrictions.</p>
10.	<p>10.4 Expanding the types of information provided on-line — elaborating new information packages, searching for information from cadastral maps maintained on-line</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action is aimed at significantly simplifying and facilitating the use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee, providing an opportunity to make use thereof without appearing before the body maintaining the cadastre and excluding — to the extent possible — direct contact between citizens and officials within the shortest time possible, as well as reducing the workload of employees of cadastre and making the optimisation of the system and employees possible, as a result reducing the system maintenance costs and increasing incomes.</p> <p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements" to the Law "On state registration of rights to the property"" is subject to adoption for the implementation of the action. The implementation of the action will contribute to the achievement of core objectives of building attractive and knowledge-based Armenia for businessmen of "Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050".</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>ARPIS automated registration system has been elaborated and introduced since 2012. It is an electronic document circulation system, which enables to electronically carry out both the receipt of applications and the issuance of certificates of state registration of rights and statements of information with regard to the provision of information.</p>

Having a unified electronic cadastral database and automated registration system provided an opportunity to make a transition to the state registration of rights and provision of information electronically. As a result, making use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee was facilitated; it became possible to provide electronic on-line services.

Despite the aforementioned, the process of providing information is mainly carried out with the engagement of large human resources, since there is an issue of data integrity in electronic databases, and in case of each application it is necessary to make sure that the information requested is accurate and complete. The statements of information provided should be in paper form, since they are certified with the stamp of service offices.

A system for providing certain information in an automatic way has been introduced since 2018; however, yet it does not have enough demand due to the limited information provided, as well as the fact that the statements of information provided were not stamped. The fact that citizens are not informed also hinders the development of the given service.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of settling the existing issues, it is envisaged to enhance the types of information provided on-line, elaborate new information packages, establish an on-line spatial platform for information search, eliminate the requirement of provided final document being stamped, develop the web-site designated for providing electronic services, inform citizens, participants of immoveable property market on new services introduced and convenient ways of making use thereof.

Activities to be carried out by the co-implementing bodies of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Compulsory Enforcement Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia — will be defined through creating a working group.

The following actions will be implemented:

1. Elaborating the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property"", submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia;
2. Elaborating the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property"", submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia;
3. Verifying and identifying the subjects of rights in effect in the text database of the electronic system and those terminated, including on the basis of the information available in communities and other state bodies;
4. Expanding the types of information provided on-line — elaborating new information packages, searching for information from cadastral maps maintained on-line;
5. Introducing an on-line service meeting the requirements of each state body (the terms of reference is submitted by the relevant body. Prior to the

	<p>submission it is agreed with the Cadastre Committee);</p> <p>6. Digitisation of cadastral files by optical character recognition (OCR) partially;</p> <p>7. Elaborating the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On state registration of rights to property"" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the action it is expected to exclude the direct contact of citizens and officials to the extent possible, reduce the existing corruption risks conditioned by those contacts, improve the position of the Republic of Armenia in the report "Doing Business", significantly simplify the procedure for acquiring information, file applications, receive final documents without personally visiting the body maintaining the cadastre, reduce the time limits for providing information with the opportunity of receiving immediately after the request, reduce the workload of personnel of territorial subdivisions and service offices, enable the optimisation of the system and employees, significantly reduce the system maintenance costs and increase the incomes of the Committee.</p>
	<p>10.5 Introducing an on-line service meeting the requirements of each state body</p> <p>(The terms of reference is submitted by the relevant body. Prior the submission, it is agreed with the Cadastre Committee)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the action is aimed at significantly simplifying and facilitating the use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee, providing an opportunity to make use thereof without appearing before the body maintaining the cadastre and excluding — to the extent possible — direct contact between citizens and officials within the shortest time possible, as well as reducing the workload of employees of cadastre and making the optimisation of the system and employees possible, as a result reducing the system maintenance costs and increasing incomes.</p> <p>The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements" to the Law "On state registration of rights to the property"" is subject to adoption for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>ARPIS automated registration system has been elaborated and introduced since 2012. It is an electronic document circulation system, which enables to electronically carry out both the receipt of applications and the issuance of certificates of state registration of rights and statements of information with regard to the provision of information.</p> <p>Having a unified electronic cadastral database and automated registration system provided an opportunity to make a transition to the state registration of rights and provision of information electronically. As a result, making use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee was facilitated; it became possible to provide electronic on-line services.</p>

	<p>Despite the aforementioned, the process of providing information is mainly carried out with the engagement of large human resources, since there is an issue of data integrity in electronic databases, and in case of each application it is necessary to make sure that the information requested is accurate and complete. The statements of information provided must be in paper form, since they are certified with the stamp of service offices.</p> <p>A system for providing certain information in an automatic way has been introduced since 2018; however, yet it does not have enough demand due to the limited information provided, as well as the fact that the statements of information provided were not stamped. The fact that citizens are not informed also hinders the development of the given service.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the existing issues, it is envisaged to enhance the types of information provided on-line, elaborate new information packages, establish an on-line spatial platform for information search, eliminate the requirement of provided final document being stamped, develop the web-site www.e-cadastre.am designated for providing electronic services, inform citizens, participants of immoveable property market on new services introduced and convenient ways of making use thereof.</p> <p>Activities to be carried out by the co-implementing bodies of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Compulsory Enforcement Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia — will be defined through creating a working group.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Replenishing the group consisting of 15 members implementing identification of entities as a result of optimisation.</p>
	<p>10.7 Developing the draft law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state registration of rights to property”” and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>The implementation of the action is aimed at significantly simplifying and facilitating the use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee, providing an opportunity to make use thereof without appearing before the body maintaining the cadastre and excluding — to the extent possible — direct contact between citizens and officials within the shortest time possible, as well as reducing the workload of employees of cadastre and making the optimisation of the system and employees possible, as a result reducing the system maintenance costs and increasing incomes.</p> <p>The Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments and supplements" to the Law "On state registration of rights to property" is subject to adoption for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>ARPIS automated registration system has been elaborated and introduced since 2012. It is an electronic document circulation system, which enables to electronically carry out both the receipt of applications and the issuance of certificates of state registration of rights and statements of information with</p>

	<p>regard to the provision of information.</p> <p>Having a unified electronic cadastral database and automated registration system provided an opportunity to make a transition to the state registration of rights and provision of information electronically. As a result, making use of services provided by the Cadastre Committee was facilitated; it became possible to provide electronic on-line services.</p> <p>Despite the aforementioned, the process of providing information is mainly carried out with the engagement of large human resources, since there is an issue of data integrity in electronic databases, and in case of each application it is necessary to make sure that the information requested is accurate and complete. The statements of information provided must be in paper form, since they are certified with the stamp of service offices.</p> <p>A system for providing certain information in an automatic way has been introduced since 2018; however, yet it does not have enough demand due to the limited information provided, as well as the fact that the statements of information provided were not stamped. The fact that citizens are not informed also hinders the development of the given service.</p> <p>1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of settling the existing issues, it is envisaged to enhance the types of information provided on-line, elaborate new information packages, establish an on-line spatial platform for information search, eliminate the requirement of provided final document being stamped, develop the web-site www.e-cadastre.am designated for providing electronic services, inform citizens, participants of immoveable property market on new services introduced and convenient ways of making use thereof.</p> <p>Activities to be carried out by the co-implementing bodies of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Compulsory Enforcement Service of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia, Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia — will be defined through creating a working group.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Regulating the legislative framework so that cadastral cases are administered only electronically.</p>
11.	<p>11.1 Collecting, entering data on the addressed objects of 1 urban and 1 rural settlement of the Community of Yerevan, combining it with the cadastral maps, pilot operation of the system</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is necessary to have reliable, non-recurring and full information on the addresses of the Republic of Armenia for establishing an accurate and complete register of addresses in the Republic. To achieve the mentioned outcome, it is necessary to clarify and simplify the procedures for registering, naming and re-naming of intra-settlement geographical objects in settlements and numbering, addressing the immoveable property, by making them coordinated and</p>

	<p>automatic. It is necessary to ensure the uniformity of information on addresses of immoveable property in the performance of functions of state bodies, by excluding the existence of identical addresses of different objects of immoveable property.</p> <p>Regulatory legal acts are not subject to adoption for the implementation of the action.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Adoption of decisions on naming and re-naming the intra-settlement geographical names and addressing the immoveable property are carried out by local self-government bodies, and the registration of addresses, maintenance of register — by the Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Armenia. Separation of functions between the state and local self-government bodies causes a number of issues in the sector related to the exchange of data between local self-government bodies (communities) and state body, as a result whereof, in some cases the register of addresses contains wrong and incomplete information, particularly the changes made in the period following the first addressing of immoveable property in numerous communities have not been included in the register of addresses and cadastral maps, since new addressing and numbering have not been submitted for state registration as prescribed, as well as in some cases the decisions on providing immoveable property addresses by the authorised naming bodies do not comply with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 2387-N of 29 December 2005, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establishing an electronic platform for addressed properties, which will enable it to be further integrated with other digital bases, including the integrated Cadastre.</p> <p>The functions of the co-implementing body of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and those to be performed by "EKENG" CJSC are prescribed by concept paper approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia N 553-L of 10 May 2019.</p> <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collecting, entering data on the addressed objects of 1 urban and 1 rural settlement of the community of Yerevan, combining it with the cadastral maps; 2. Organising meetings with the heads of the communities in marz centres, communities, submitting the procedure for using the automatic information system for the register of addresses, training of specialists, as well as collecting, entering data on the addressed objects from all the communities and combining it with the cadastral maps; 3. Operating the unified register of addresses and the information system for register of addresses within the scope of the integrated cadastre and interoperability. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p>
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	For combination of the unified register of addresses and the register adjusted in the unified information system of addresses with the cadastral maps.
	<p>11.2 Organising meetings with the heads of the communities in marz centres, communities, submitting the procedure for using the informative system of the register of addresses, training of specialists, as well as collecting, entering data on the addressed objects from all the communities and combining it with the cadastral maps</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>It is necessary to have reliable, non-recurring and full information on the addresses of the Republic of Armenia for establishing an accurate and complete register of addresses in the Republic. To achieve the mentioned outcome, it is necessary to clarify and simplify the procedures for registering, naming and re-naming of intra-settlement geographical objects in settlements and numbering, addressing the immoveable property, by making them coordinated and automatic. It is necessary to ensure the uniformity of information on addresses of immoveable property in the performance of functions of state bodies, by excluding the existence of identical addresses of different objects of immoveable property.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Adoption of decisions on naming and re-naming the intra-settlement geographical names and addressing the immoveable property are carried out by local self-government bodies, and the registration of addresses, maintenance of register — by the Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Armenia. Separation of functions between the state and local self-government bodies causes a number of issues in the sector related to the exchange of data between local self-government bodies (communities) and state body, as a result whereof, in some cases the register of addresses contains wrong and incomplete information, particularly the changes made in the period following the first addressing of immoveable property in numerous communities have not been included in the register of addresses and cadastral maps, since new addressing and numbering have not been submitted for state registration as prescribed, as well as in some cases the decisions on providing immoveable property addresses by the authorised naming bodies do not comply with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2387-N of 29 December 2005, etc.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Establishing an electronic platform for addressed properties, which will enable it to be further integrated with other digital bases, including the integrated Cadastre.</p> <p>The functions of the co-implementing body of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Police of the Republic of Armenia and those to be performed by "EKENG" CJSC are prescribed by concept paper approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 553-L of 10 May 2019.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Combining the unified register of addresses and the register adjusted in the unified information system of addresses with the cadastral maps.</p>

11.3 Operating the unified register of addresses and the information system for register of addresses within the scope of the integrated cadastre and interoperability

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

It is necessary to have reliable, non-recurring and full information on the addresses of the Republic of Armenia for establishing an accurate and complete register of addresses in the Republic. To achieve the mentioned outcome, it is necessary to clarify and simplify the procedures for registering, naming and re-naming of intra-settlement geographical objects in settlements and numbering, addressing the immovable property, by making them coordinated and automatic. It is necessary to ensure the uniformity of information on addresses of immovable property in the performance of functions of state bodies, by excluding the existence of identical addresses of different objects of immovable property.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Adoption of decisions on naming and re-naming the intra-settlement geographical names and addressing the immovable property are carried out by local self-government bodies, and the registration of addresses, maintenance of register — by the Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Armenia. Separation of functions between the state and local self-government bodies causes a number of issues in the sector related to the exchange of data between local self-government bodies (communities) and state body, as a result whereof, in some cases the register of addresses contains wrong and incomplete information, particularly the changes made in the period following the first addressing of immovable property in numerous communities have not been included in the register of addresses and cadastral maps, since new addressing and numbering have not been submitted for state registration as prescribed, as well as in some cases the decisions on providing immovable property addresses by the authorised naming bodies do not comply with the requirements of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2387-N of 29 December 2005, etc.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Establishing an electronic platform for addressed properties, which will enable it to be further integrated with other digital bases, including the integrated Cadastre.

The functions of the co-implementing body of the action — Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Police of the Republic of Armenia and those to be performed by "EKENG" CJSC are prescribed by concept paper approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 553-L of 10 May 2019.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Reflecting any change of renaming or numbering of the immovable property address made in the register of addresses and providing access for users, ensuring interoperability of state and private registers operating on the basis of an address and of other systems, as well as reflecting the information in the cadastral maps.

12.	<p>12.1 Establishing a Unified Subdivision for Registration</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the centralisation of 4 subdivisions operating in the Cadastre Committee System in one subdivision, as well as optimisation of 40 operating service offices on account of developing services provided on-line, expansion of the network and geography of services provided by operators (communities, "HayPost" CJSC, etc.), as well as delegation of functions of service offices of private companies.</p> <p>The implementation of the action causes the necessity for making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 749-L of 11 June 2018.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Within the Committee are currently operating 4 territorial subdivisions, 1 of which is in Yerevan (Unified Subdivision for Registration of Real Estate, 3 — in marzes (Shirak, Lori, Syunik), and 40 service offices, 3 of which are in Yerevan, 37 — in all 10 marzes, the costs of maintenance and operation whereof are covered at the expense of funds of the Committee, and there is an increasing need for a certain number of staff positions.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of the reforms, it is envisaged to centralise the functions of 4 subdivisions in one subdivision.</p> <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing a Unified Subdivision for Registration; 2. Optimising the offices for provision of services on account of the development of services provided on-line, expansion of the list of services provided by the operators (communities, "HayPost" CJSC, etc.) and the geography. Establishing a consultation centre instead of optimised offices. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Centralising the registration, provision of information, assessment, archive of cadastral files, maintenance of record-registration data and cadastral maps, developing a unified methodology.</p>
	<p>12.2 Optimising the offices for provision of services on account of the development of services provided on-line, expansion of the list of services provided by the operators (communities, "HayPost" CJSC, etc.) and the geography. Establishing a consultation centre instead of optimised offices</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the action is conditioned by the centralisation of 4 subdivisions operating in the Cadastre Committee System in one subdivision, as well as optimisation of 40 operating service offices on account of developing services provided on-line, expansion of the network and geography of services provided by operators (communities, "HayPost" CJSC, etc.), as well as delegation of functions of service offices of private companies.</p>

	<p>The implementation of the action causes the necessity for making amendments and supplements to Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N 749-L of 11 June 2018.</p> <p>1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There are 4 territorial subdivisions — 1 of which is in Yerevan (Unified Subdivision for Registration of Real Estate, 3 — in marzes (Shirak, Lori, Syunik) — and 40 service offices currently operating in the Committee System, 3 of which are in Yerevan, 37 — in all 10 marzes, the costs of maintenance and operation whereof are covered at the expense of funds of the Committee, and there is an increasing need for a certain number of staff positions.</p> <p>1. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>As a result of the reforms, it is envisaged to centralise the functions of 4 subdivisions in one subdivision.</p> <p>The following actions will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing a Unified Subdivision for Registration; 2. Optimising the offices for provision of services on account of the development of services provided on-line, expansion of the list of services provided by the operators (communities, "HayPost" CJSC, etc.) and the geography. Establishing a consultation centre instead of optimised offices. <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Raising the effectiveness of and optimising the labour resources, reducing the expenses for the maintenance of Cadastre system, improving the quality of servicing, expanding the geography of servicing.</p>
13.	<p>13.1 Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On immoveable property appraisal activities" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The action is aimed at improvement of the quality of assessment services provided, legislative regulation of the activities of immoveable property agents (brokers) and development of the sector.</p> <p>A necessity is arising to adopt regulatory legal acts in accordance with the Project (Law of the Republic of Armenia, decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the legislation in effect does not regulate a number of legal relations, wherein there is a necessity to reflect the market value of the property, as well as the opportunities for regulating that sector by the state authorised body are highly limited.</p> <p>Currently, the legislation does not regulate the sphere of activity of real estate agents. No record-registration concerning the organisations or natural</p>

	<p>persons engaged in that type of activity is carried out. As a result, the fact that the mentioned type of activity is not regulated by legislation causes certain problems for the development of immovable property market.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the Project, it is envisaged to implement the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On immoveable property appraisal activities" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia; 2. Regulating and developing the activities of immoveable property agents (brokers). <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Expanding and establishing the sector of appraisal, increasing the trust of market participants and the public in persons carrying out appraisal activities, improving the quality of appraisal services provided, increasing the state community budgets and saving costs.</p> <p>Legislative regulation of the activity of real estate agents will contribute to the development of immovable property market, improve the professional qualities of organisations or natural persons engaged in the given activity, provide an opportunity to record-register those engaged in the given activity, as well as contribute to the engagement of agents operating in the shadow field in tax-legal system.</p>
	<p>13.2 Regulating and developing the activities of real estate agents (brokers)"</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The objective of the action is the legislative regulation of the activities of real estate agents (brokers) and development of the sector.</p> <p>A necessity is arising to adopt regulatory legal acts in accordance with the Project (Law of the Republic of Armenia, decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the legislation in effect does not regulate a number of legal relations, in case of which the opportunities for regulating that sector by the state authorised body are highly limited. Currently, the legislation does not regulate the sector of activities of real estate agents. No record-registration concerning the organisations or natural persons engaged in that type of activity is carried out. As a result, the fact that the mentioned type of activity is not regulated by legislation causes certain problems for the development of immovable property market.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the Project, it is envisaged to regulate and develop the activities of real estate agents (brokers).</p>

	2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action Legislative regulation, introducing new toolkit.
14.	<p>14.1 Adopting the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the cadastral values of the lands of agricultural use" (14.1)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Ensuring base prices of land parcel for creating taxation bases of land parcels of agricultural use deemed to be an immoveable property taxable object.</p> <p>According to the Project, a necessity is arising (Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia) to adopt regulatory legal acts on the basis of the requirements of part 3 of Article 66 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Adoption of draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the cadastral values of the lands of agricultural use" stems from the requirement of the second paragraph of part 3 of Article 55 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, according where to, the cadastral values of lands of agricultural use are approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Adoption of the Decision will approve the cadastral values of lands of agricultural use, therefore, adoption of the draft Decision is necessary.</p> <p>The following action will be implemented:</p> <p>1. Adopting the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the cadastral values of the lands of agricultural use".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>As a result of applying the legal act, the cadastral values of lands of agricultural use will be defined, which will contribute to the development of land market, formation of immovable property tax base and community budgets, as well as the cadastral values of the land parcels will be applied in cases of alienation, provision of the right to lease of lands of agricultural use or other cases as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.</p>
15.	<p>15.1 Appraising (re-appraising) immoveable property deemed to be an immoveable property taxable object by the data recorded as of 1 July 2023 and exchanging information, data thereon through the interoperability platform — providing it electronically to the operator of the unified platform of electronic community management (UPECM)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The action is aimed at forming taxation bases for 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 of the immoveable property in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p>

	<p>Currently, the cadastral appraisals of immovable property is carried out through appraisal procedures prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-225-N "On establishing the cadastral appraisal procedure approximated to the market value of the immovable property for the purpose of taxation with immovable property tax", and the cadastral value of the immovable property is formed by the sum of cadastral values of the land parcel and (or) developments (constructions) thereof.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the action, it is envisaged to carry out appraisals (re-appraisals) based on the data of immovable property record-registered as of 1 July 2023 and 2026 and provide the information thereon to the operator of the unified platform of electronic community management (UPECM) through the Data Exchange Interoperability Platform;</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Establishing taxation bases for 2024-2026 of the immovable property, which will enable the local self-government bodies to record-register and implement the acceptance of payments of the immovable property tax for 2024-2026.</p>
	<p>15.2 Appraising (re-appraising) immovable property deemed to be an immovable property taxable object by the data recorded as of 1 July 2026 and exchanging information, data thereon through the interoperability platform — providing it electronically to the operator of the unified platform of electronic community management (UPECM)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The objective of the action is forming taxation bases for 2024-2026 and 2027-2029 of the immovable property in the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Currently, the cadastral appraisals of immovable property is carried out through appraisal procedures prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-225-N "On establishing the cadastral appraisal procedure approximated to the market value of the immovable property for the purpose of taxation with immovable property tax", and the cadastral value of the immovable property is formed by the sum of cadastral values of the land parcel and/or developments (constructions) thereof.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Within the scope of the action, it is envisaged to carry out appraisals (re-appraisals) based on the data of immovable property record-registered as of 1 July 2023 and 2026 and provide the information thereon to the operator of the unified platform of electronic community management (UPECM) through the Data Exchange Interoperability Platform.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Establishing taxation bases for 2027-2029 of the immovable property deemed to be an immovable property taxable object of the Republic of Armenia,</p>

	which will enable the local self-government bodies to record-register and implement the accepting of payments of the immoveable property tax for 2027-2029.
16.	<p>16.1 Compiling draft package of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia “On the report on availability and distribution of the land fund (balance of land resources) of the Republic of Armenia” and submitting to the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the manner prescribed</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for implementing the action of adopting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia stems from the requirements of Article 34 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, according where to the land parcels are subject to state record-registration regardless of the type of ownership.</p> <p>According to the Project, a necessity is arising (Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia) to adopt regulatory legal acts on the basis of the requirements of part 3 of Article 34 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>State record-registration of land parcels is being carried out for the purpose of obtaining comprehensive information on quality and quantity, designated purpose, soil types and operational significance, ownership entities and entities for use. State registration is carried out regularly on the basis of reference data of initial registration reflecting legal, qualitative and quantitative changes taken place during that year in the textual and graphic registration documents. The state record-registration of land parcels is aimed at drawing up an annual report on the land fund of the Republic of Armenia (balance of land resources) as of 1 June of each year, which is approved and published by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>Changes of targeted and operational significance, land types and ownership subjects, as well as irrigated lands are carried out annually in the land fund of the Republic of Armenia. It is necessary to reflect the above-mentioned amendments in ongoing balance of land resources of the Republic of Armenia for each year.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The adoption of the draft Decision will fulfil the requirement of Article 34 of the Land Code of the Republic of Armenia, and the legal, qualitative and quantitative amendments made during the year will be reflected in the balance of land resources of the Republic of Armenia drawn up as of 1 July of each year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Approving Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On the reports on availability and distribution of the land fund (balance of land resources) of the Republic of Armenia for each year" the renewed and adjusted data whereof may be used by all the interested state bodies, organisations and persons.</p>

	Draft decision of each year will be posted on www.cadastre.am official web-page of the Committee of Real Estate Cadastre of the Republic of Armenia.
17.	<p>17.1 Co-operating with higher educational institutions implementing sectoral educational programmes, reviewing educational programmes, establishing laboratories.</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Involvement of highly qualified sectoral personnel stemming from the actions of the Development Programme of the Cadastre Committee.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The employees of the Cadastre Committee are mainly specialised in a specific sector, which hinders the effective implementation of functions of the Cadastre Committee.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>In cooperation with sectoral higher educational institutions, elaborate new educational programmes, create laboratories for the purpose of ensuring the preparation of specialists with comprehensive knowledge in different sectors (law, cartography, land management, etc.) and hiring them in the Cadastre Committee.</p> <p>The following action will be implemented: co-operating with sectoral institutions, defining updated educational programmes, establishing laboratories.</p> <p>In 2023, the following will be implemented on a quarterly basis: in the first quarter — drawing up sectoral education programme and presenting it to the higher education institutions, in the second quarter — discussion of the positions presented by the higher education institutions, in the third quarter — introduction of the programme in the higher education institutions, in the fourth quarter— organisation of education with the programme by the higher education institutions, organisation of students internship at the Cadastre Committee for students having studied by the education programme each year.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Engaging specialists highly qualified in the sector deriving from the actions of the development programme of the Cadastre Committee, as a result of which the Cadastre Committee will be replenished with young specialists under the age of 25 who meet the requirements of science and techniques and are knowledgeable, who will receive relevant professional knowledge and skills in the jointly established scientific laboratories.</p>

	Nuclear Safety Regulatory Committee
N/N	RATIONALE
1.	Submitting the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On atomic energy" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

	<p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of the above-mentioned legal act stems from Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes".</p> <p>Though a number of amendments and supplements have been made after adopting the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes" (1 February 1998), they do not fully regulate the legal relations arising in the field of atomic energy, in particular, protection of population against radon radioactive gas.</p> <p>Adoption of the draft Law is also conditioned by the necessity of implementing point 3.4 of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as an action implemented for carrying out the construction of the new nuclear energy block.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Enshrining the amendment to the Convention "On the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material" (2013) ratified by the Republic of Armenia, regulations of the Joint Convention "On the Safety of Spent Fuel Management", missions of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS), International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS), recommendations of Design Safety Review (DSR), fulfilling obligations stemming from the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union, European Atomic Energy Community and member states thereof, as well as settlements of a number of important issues in the field, and approximating EU Directive 2009/71 of 25 June 2009 "Establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations", EU Directive 2011/70/ of 19 July 2011 "Establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste" and enshrining the requirements for IAEA safety standards cause the necessity to elaborate a new law.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The new law will define the concepts, relating regulations of the field in accordance with the reviewed concepts of IAEA, will provide to all life cycles of nuclear installations — selecting, designing, constructing, operating, putting the site out of operation, will enshrine the provisions of international treaties ratified by the Republic of Armenia, recommendations of IAEA missions.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>The law will regulate the relations of the field in accordance with the requirements of international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, requirements of the IAEA safety standards and of above-mentioned directives of the European Union.</p> <p>2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the permissible limits of radioactive substances in water intended for consumption" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of regulatory legal act stems from the necessity of fulfilling obligations stemming from the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement</p>
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	<p>signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union, European Atomic Energy Community and member states thereof (signed on 24 November 2017, in Brussels - CEPA) and the requirement of point 1 of part 1 of Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes", according whereto the regulatory body elaborates draft legal acts for the field of use of atomic energy and submits to the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Adoption of the Decision will be aimed at ensuring the implementation of point "4.10 Environmental Protection" of the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Involving provisions of EU Directive 2013/51/ of 22 October 2013 "On laying down the requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption" in legal acts of the Republic of Armenia (Directive concerning the Section of Nuclear Energy envisaged by Annex 2 to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union, European Atomic Energy Community and the member states thereof).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Armenia will be authorised to adopt the above-mentioned Decision by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On atomic energy", which will define the permissible limits of radioactive substances in drinking water, in accordance with provisions of the above-mentioned directives.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Fulfilling the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia to ensure the protection of population, environment against potential harmful impact from exposure to ionising radiation.</p> <p>3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the requirements for the safety of ionising radiation and safety of protection from ionising radiation" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of regulatory legal act stems from the necessity of fulfilling obligations stemming from the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union, European Atomic Energy Community and member states thereof (signed on 24 November 2017, in Brussels - CEPA) and the requirement of point 1 of part 1 of Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes", according whereto the regulatory body elaborates draft legal acts for the sector of use of atomic energy and submits to the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Adoption of Decision stems from the requirement of point "i" of Article 7 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes", according whereto the Government of the Republic of Armenia approves the safety norms and rules presented by the regulating body.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Involving provisions of EU Directives 5. 12. 2013/59/89/618 90/641, 96/29/, 97/43 and 2003/122/ "On laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation" in legal acts of the Republic of Armenia (Directive concerning the Section of Nuclear Energy envisaged by Annex 2 to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union,</p>
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	<p>European Atomic Energy Community and the member states thereof).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Armenia will be authorised to adopt the above-mentioned decision by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On atomic energy", which will define safety requirements for ionising radiation and protection against ionising radiation.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Fulfilling obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia to ensure the provision of safety of population, personnel facilities of atomic energy use, protection of environment against potential harmful impact from exposure to ionising radiation, including natural radiation, in particular, radon radioactive gas, radioactivity of construction materials, etc.</p> <p>4. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On shipment of radioactive waste and spent fuel" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>Adoption of regulatory legal act stems from the necessity of fulfilling obligations stemming from the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union, European Atomic Energy Community and member states thereof (signed on 24 November 2017, in Brussels - CEPA) and the requirement of point 1 of part 1 of Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes", according where to the regulatory body elaborates draft legal acts for the field of use of atomic energy and submits to the Prime Minister.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Involving provisions of EU Directive 2006/117 of 20 November 2006 "On the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel" in legal acts of the Republic of Armenia (Directive concerning the Section of Nuclear Energy envisaged by Annex 2 to the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia, European Union, European Atomic Energy Community and the member states thereof).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Armenia will be authorised to adopt the above-mentioned decision by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On atomic energy", which will define new requirements regulating the import, export, domestic transportation of radioactive waste and spent fuel.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Fulfilling the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia to ensure the safety of population, personnel of facilities of atomic energy use, protection of the environment against potential harmful impact from exposure to ionising radiation.</p>
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State Revenue Committee	
N/N	Rationale
1.	<p>Modernising the electronic systems and infrastructures (1.1-1.15)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The mentioned Action is conditioned by the need to increase the effectiveness of information flow management of the system of the State Revenue Committee. Replenishment and improvement of capacities of the electronic management system will essentially facilitate the opportunities for interaction of economic entities, natural persons and state bodies, and will provide them with modern and suitable electronic tools for receiving electronic services and exchanging information (paragraph 5 and directions 2, 4 and 6 of paragraph 10 of sub-section 6.9 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, the State Revenue Committee continues its activities aimed at application of innovative programmes, including creation of tools for processing databases with modern structure of "Big Data", elaboration of machine-learning artificial intelligence systems, as well as introduction of electronic systems for automatic release of goods and vehicles, as well as introduction of electronic system of "Single customs account." These activities will bear continuous nature, as the State Revenue Committee attaches importance to the need for availability of timely electronic systems and infrastructures.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is planned to implement the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Improving and automating analytical tools; (2) Launching an electronic platform for repaying the interest amounts paid for the servicing of a mortgage loan; (3) Improving the systems for collection of customs payments and other payments; (4) Introducing mobile applications of electronic systems for issuing settlement documents and submitting reports; (5) Improving the electronic systems for processing information received from third persons; (6) Creating tools for processing databases with modern structure of "Big Data", expanding and developing the toolkit; (7) Elaborating systems with machine-learning artificial intelligence; (8) Strengthening and improving the capacities of electronic management systems; (9) Ensuring an option to output the data reflected in settlement documents (tax invoices, cash register receipts, etc.);

	<p>(10) Introducing electronic system of automatic release of goods and vehicles (automatic release) without visiting the locations of customs authorities.</p> <p>(11) Introducing the system of “Single customs account”;</p> <p>(12) Passenger declaration and introduction of mobile application;</p> <p>(13) Automating the issuance of residency certificate;</p> <p>(14) Membership of the Republic of Armenia in the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Taxation Purposes of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</p> <p>(15) Regulating of the taxi service sector in the electronic system of submission of reports of natural persons.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of implementation of the Action it is expected to have electronic systems and infrastructures corresponding to the modern standards. By automating the SRC processes, increase the application of IT systems by the taxpayers and SRC employees to maximum level, by restricting the SRC-taxpayer direct contact as much as possible. As a result, the quality of services provided to the economic entities will increase, the volume of the exchanged information will be expanded and their security will increase, the time period of the provided services will decrease, tax and customs administration and document circulation will be simplified for the small and medium-sized businesses. As a result, the index of effectiveness of tax administration will be improved by 0.5-0.7 percentage points.</p>
2.	<p>Improving the quality of servicing the taxpayers and expanding the services provided (2.1-2.9)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The mentioned Action is conditioned by the need to improve the quality of servicing the taxpayers, strengthen the partnering relationships with the taxpayers, as well as to define additional administrative improvements and services for the purpose of encouraging the law-abiding taxpayers, which will make the environment for implementing tax and foreign economic activities predictable and will increase the level of discipline (paragraphs 5 and 9, directions 1, 2 and 6 of paragraph 10 of sub-section 6.9 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, and in terms of adoption of legislative acts — also parts 1 of Article 109 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and sub-section 6.3 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In recent years, extensive work has been done to improve the quality of servicing the taxpayers and to expand the services provided, as well as to establish partnering relationships between the tax authority and the taxpayer, but from this point of view, a lot of work needs to be done to ensure servicing and to provide services meeting the best international standards.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is planned to implement the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Ensuring an opportunity for the tax authority and the taxpayers to communicate with each other completely electronically through appropriate software; (2) Elaborating and introducing a new sub-system for managing the customs declarations and notifications; (3) Improving the system for law-abiding taxpayers; (4) Introducing a modern system for managing the human resources of the State Revenue Committee; (5) Improving the system for notifying and teaching the taxpayers continuously; (6) Organising inquiries on the procedures for tax and customs administration; (7) Reducing the terms of crediting to the unified account the compensated amount subject to crediting to the unified account through the procedure established by the legislation; (8) Revealing and preventing the corruption risks and phenomenon in the Tax and customs authorities; (9) Establishing a modern centre for customs formulations. <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action it is expected to improve the quality of services provided to the economic entities, expand the simplified tax and customs procedures for the bona fide and law-abiding taxpayers, enroot the principle of fulfilling the tax obligations on voluntary basis by the taxpayers, further enhance the State-taxpayer partnering relationships, reduce the administrative burden and the time period of the provided services.</p>
3.	<p>Reducing the shadow by improving the systems for managing the tax control risks (3.1-3.5)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The mentioned Action is conditioned by the need to increase the effectiveness of tax control, ensure complete documentation of all the tools in economy as a result of improvement of risk management systems and processes in the tax sector (paragraph 16 of sub-section 6.8, paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 and directions 3 and 5 of paragraph 10 of sub-section 6.9 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, and in terms of adoption of legislative and secondary legislative acts — also parts 1 of Articles 109 and 154 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Article 5, Article 19, Article 24, Article 27, Article 26 and Article 28 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-86-N of 23 March 2022 "On making amendments and supplements to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia).</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, performing addressed and effective control is attached importance, i.e. the main approach in activities of improving tax administration is to apply tax control tools mainly to taxpayers, who will be considered risky by the results of the analysis, expecting to reduce shadow circulation, excluding under-declaration of taxes.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is planned to implement the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Improving the legality of activities carried out by economic entities or the discipline of full documentation of transactions, perfecting the control toolkit; (2) Improving the tax discipline of taxpayers carrying out imports from the Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union to the Republic of Armenia and perfecting the control tool; (3) Improving the mechanisms for calculating tax obligations; (4) Improving the system of assessment of the sectoral tax potential of value added tax, profit tax and income tax, in co-operation with the International Monetary Fund; (5) Reviewing and improving the risk management systems. <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>By the implementation of the Action it is planned to reduce the shadow circulation, improve the risk management systems, increase tax revenues credited to the State Budget through targeted tax control, as a result of which the tax/GDP ration will increase by about 2.5 percentage points.</p>
4.	<p>Increasing effectiveness of customs control by improving customs risk management toolkit (4.1-4.4)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the mentioned Action is conditioned by the need to increase the effectiveness of customs control by the improvement of analytical toolkit applied within the framework of customs administration (paragraph 8 and direction 3 of paragraph 10 of sub-section 6.9 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021)</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The effectiveness of the customs control toolkit is essentially conditioned by the high level of automation of customs processes, including the improvement of analytical tools.</p> <p>At present, relevant activities are carried out to automate the customs control processes conducted especially after the release of goods. At the same time, activities are regularly carried out to increase the level of automation of certain sub-functions of customs control. In order to support foreign trade, in</p>

	<p>parallel with the gradual reduction of pre-release functions, a number of actions should be taken to expand post-release functions, as a result of which a modern system for targeted inspections after the release of goods and vehicles will be introduced.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is planned to implement the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Improving the customs risk management toolkit; (2) Harmonising the customs and tax risks management systems; (3) Introducing a system for "Unified Database of Customs Offences"; (4) Processing risk indicators for the purpose of regulating customs operations related to postal (courier) items — formulating a risk indicator of frequency of border crossings through passport and Public Service Number data, processing a risk indicator based on the data on the weight and frequency of border crossings of a product. <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of Action, customs administration will significantly be clarified and improved. As a result of increasing the level of improvement and automation of the risk management system of customs transactions, the resources of the customs authorities will be used more effectively, reducing the time and means spent on control performed prior the release of goods, as a result ensuring also attractive conditions for international trade flows.</p>
5.	<p>Improving the "One Stop Shop" System (5.1-5.5)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The mentioned Action is conditioned by the need to conduct border crossing through the crossing points of the state border by the economic entities and citizens smoothly and unhindered, ensure complementary and mutually agreed activities of the bodies involved in the activities of comprehensive management of the state border and to introduce modern procedures (paragraphs 2, 3, 8, 11 and 12 of sub-section 6.9 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Republic of Armenia implements deep and comprehensive reforms of the state border crossing points, which will allow not only to reconstruct and modernise the state border crossing points in terms of technical equipment but also to introduce the leading practice of the countries of the European Union.</p> <p>For the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of state administration, the services provided by the state are being modernised, automated and digitised, creating a unified centre for their provision using the "One Stop Shop" principle.</p>

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is planned to implement the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Elaborating a new model for the use of weighing system data, integrating the centralised system of scales operating at the state border crossing points of the Republic of Armenia into the "One National Stop Shop of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Armenia" System; (2) Introducing an electronic system for issuing permission documentation required for customs formulations; (3) Integrating other systems operating at the state border crossing points of the Republic of Armenia into the "One National Stop Shop of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Armenia" System; (4) Using the existing control tools jointly by the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia and the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia — integrating the systems of One National Stop Shop of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Armenia and EBMI; (5) Modernising the basic electronic management systems required for the final introduction of the "One Stop Shop" system, elaborating and introducing new systems. <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>As a result of the implementation of the Action, it is expected to completely introduce the "One Stop Shop" system, provide services in compliance with the modern standards, reduce the time period of the customs formulations, establish a unified working procedure for the control and supervision functions at points of conducting customs formulations, implement optimisation of competences of the state authorities. As a result, direct contacts between the state bodies and FEA entities will be reduced, the border crossings will become smoother, unhindered and current, contributing also to the increase of investment attractiveness.</p>
6.	<p>Enhancing international co-operation (6.1-6.5)</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The mentioned Action is conditioned by the need to enhance the co-operation with international partner countries and organisation, as well as to improve tools for control over the international transactions (paragraphs 3 and 13 of sub-section 6.9 of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021).</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, significantly active works are being carried out by various international organisations (especially by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) to increase the level of tax transparency at the international level. In particular, it has become very urgent for countries to have an information exchange system in compliance with international standards, which will allow to implement the exchange of information in a timely manner and in accordance with security rules. The OECD's Common Reporting Standard plays a key role in ensuring transparency and fairness in the global tax system.</p>

	<p>To further improve the use of the CRS standard, it is essential to focus on enhancing data quality, strengthening procedures for protecting confidential information, and expanding technical assistance. Identifying the appropriate areas for data use is also crucial for effective tax administration.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of solving the above-mentioned issues, it is planned to implement the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Introducing international standards for exchanging information within the scope of accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); (2) Implementing works aimed at introducing Common Reporting Standard of OECD; (3) Implementing works ensuring the application of those standards of the "Tax Base Erosion and Profit Shifting" project that concern the functions of the tax authority; (4) Integrating with the systems for cross-border electronic delivery of documents/exchanging information within the scope of the Eastern Partnership. <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Through the implementation of this initiative, existing CRS issues will be eliminated, leading to positive outcomes and contributing to enhancing the effectiveness of the automatic financial information exchange system and strengthening international tax cooperation. The expected results of the proposed actions will lead to an improvement in tax collection levels.</p>
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Urban Development Committee	
N/N	
1.	<p>ESTABLISHING GROUNDS REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATE POLICY ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT AT THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL</p> <p><u>1.1. "Drawing up urban development project (spatial planning) documents" within the framework of the 2017-2024 programme — drawing up combined micro-regional spatial planning documents</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from sub-point 7 of point 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", provision of point 3.2.2 of Target 2 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme" and point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p>

According to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", main issues of the Republic regarding the spatial development and measures aimed at their solution are enshrined in planning documents at national, regional, micro-regional and local levels serving as a ground for the spatial development.

Local and micro-regional spatial planning documents are elaborated in compliance with the provisions of the procedure approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1920-N of 29 December 2011, which (the Procedure) is aimed at the simplification of the functions of elaboration and approval of urban development programme documents in the communities of the Republic of Armenia, though the establishment of mechanisms ensuring the safe and normal development of settlements.

The objective of the Action is to provide the communities of the Republic of Armenia with spatial planning documents through the elaboration of combined spatial planning draft documents and to save financial means by combining documents of different levels.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Regulation of urban development activities through micro-regional planning is provided for by Article 14.4 of the Law "On urban development", and part 32 of Article 14.3 prescribes that the provision of land parcels and/or architectural layout tasks for development purposes shall be prohibited without urban development programme documents of the community approved in the prescribed manner from 1 July, 2024.

Within the framework of the Programme, micro-regional documents of Tavush Marz (except for Dilijan enlarged community) of the Republic of Armenia were elaborated in 2017, those of Syunik and Ararat Marzes — in 2018, micro-regional document of Dilijan enlarged community was elaborated at the expense of funds allocated from the State Budget for 2019, the same document for Vayots Dzor, Armavir, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik (partially) and Shirak (partially) Marzes are at the stage of elaboration.

Conditioned by the epidemic (COVID-19) and the martial law declared in the country on 27 September 2020, the companies drafting the combined micro-regional spatial planning documents of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia, Gegharkunik Marz (partially) of the Republic of Armenia and Shirak Marz (partially) of the Republic of Armenia and of Ashotsk enlarged community concluded within the framework of the State Budget for 2020 failed to carry out the mentioned works within the terms stipulated by the contracts. According to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1651-N of 7 October 2020, the amount of money — AMD 409,261.0 thousand — prescribed by contracts concluded in 2020 has been returned to the Reserve Fund of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, provided that funding of contracts will be ensured in 2021.

Because of the above-mentioned circumstances, the works of elaboration of the drafts of 9 combined micro-regional spatial planning documents of Armavir Marz of the Republic of Armenia and 6 combined micro-regional spatial planning documents of Vayots Dzor Marz of the Republic of Armenia were not completed in due time. AMD 67.625.0 thousand out of the amount envisaged by the contracts concluded in 2019 was returned to the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

In 2021, complete the fulfilment of the obligations undertaken by the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia under the contracts

concluded in 2019 — the combined spatial planning documents (works are at the stage of revision) of Vayots Dzor Marz (including all communities) of the Republic of Armenia, Aragatsotn Marz (40 settlements, 4 documents) of the Republic of Armenia and Ashotsk enlarged community (11 settlements) of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia. During 2022-2024, elaborate micro-regional combined spatial planning documents of Kotayk, Lori, Gegharkunik, Aragatsotn and Shirak Marzes of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Providing all the communities of the Republic of Armenia with the spatial planning documents.

1.2. Elaborating a project for zoning the part of Lchashen-Sevan Peninsula of "Sevan" National Park and a draft charter for urban development

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 14 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", point 4.2.3 of Target 2 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme" and point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to increase the economic activity in the territory of "Sevan" National Park and to expand the tourism opportunities of Lake Sevan through engagement of investments.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, only a small part of recreational resources of Lake Sevan are used, construction is not regulated, unsightly, non-main buildings, abandoned, unused or unfinished structures predominate, moreover, some of them are in the floodplain.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The existing construction processes are regulated through the elaboration of a project for zoning the part of Lchashen-Sevan Peninsula of "Sevan" National Park and a charter for urban development.

In 2019, the task of the project for zoning of the part and urban development charter was elaborated, on the basis of which — at the expense of the funds prescribed by the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2020, within the framework of the relevant state procurement contract — the urban development charter is currently being elaborated.

Certain obstacles arose during the elaboration of the project. The design company applied to the Cadastre Committee for acquiring cadastral maps of Lchashen-Sevan part, but the Cadastre Committee informed that the tender announced by them had been cancelled and that it was impossible to provide any initial data. At the same time, in order to make the public aware, organise the next stages of hearings, obtain initial materials and complete the elaboration of project documents as a result thereof, necessity has arisen to extend the terms for completion of the project once more, for which the draft

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2096-A of 17 December 2020 and setting the deadline for the implementation of works up to 30 April 2022" was put into circulation.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Creating favourable conditions for investments in the recreational zone of Lake Sevan.

1.3. Supporting the urban development activities in the borderline communities

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of point 3 of Article 86 of the Constitution, of points 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of part 3 of Article 10.1, Article 14.4 of the Law "On urban development", provisions of point 364 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 650-L of 16 May 2019 "On approving the 2019-2023 Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia", as well as point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to elaborate a policy for conducting urban development activities in the borderline communities.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

As a result of monocentric development, as well as unfavourable geopolitical conditions of the country, decline in population, economic activity and investments is registered in borderline communities. Often farming becomes impossible because of unfavourable location of lands. Ensuring safety of population and ensuring sufficient conditions for residing is a primary issue in borderline communities.

At present, the 2017-2024 Programme "Drawing up urban development project (territorial planning) documents" is aimed at assessing problems of borderline communities and envisaging development, safety of population, overpassing roads and reserve reservoirs, conduits and other necessary actions. For instance, actions are recommended by the micro-regional documents of Tavush Marz of the Republic of Armenia which are very important for the borderline communities of the Marz, by engaging all the interested bodies in the implementation thereof.

Elaboration of special norms and rules — with the provision of certain privileges — aimed at ensuring the safety of population is also considered to be a problem, which will promote the expansion of investments and other economic activities.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is planned to pursue the process of supporting the implementation of recommendations aimed at the problems revealed in borderline communities as a result of elaboration of micro-regional documents and at the solution thereof, study other existing issues and elaborate packages of recommendations, in particular packages of investment programmes, together with the bodies considered to be co-implementing bodies.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Solving the conceptual issues of borderline communities by order of priority, ensuring safe bioenvironment, improving demographic indicators.

1.4. Elaborating a task of the Master Resettlement Plan of the Republic of Armenia and the Master Plan

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The legal ground for implementation of this Action is point 6 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", points 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of Target 2 of Annex No 2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021; it is conditioned by the necessity for elaboration and implementation of a strategy for stable spatial development, taking into account the socio-economic factors, engineering-geological, engineering-transport, natural conditions and resources, other peculiarities of ecological state, cultural heritage, geography and region.

The objective of the Action is to approve the documents subject to mandatory elaboration prescribed by law, as a legal basis of the state policy on urban development at national level.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Taking into account that the term for the Master Resettlement Plan of the Republic of Armenia — approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 610-N of 10 April 2003 — expires in 2024, it is necessary to elaborate the task of the Master Plan of Resettlement and Territorial Organisation of the Republic of Armenia and the Master Plan itself.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaboration of the Master Plan of Resettlement and Territorial Organisation of the Republic of Armenia in 2024, after the approval of the task — elaboration of the Master Plan of Resettlement and Territorial Organisation of the Republic of Armenia in 2025-2027.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Effective spatial planning through sequential elaboration of national and local level documents (resettlement and territorial organisation, detailed urban development zoning).

1.6. Elaborating a draft Decision and the task thereof of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving the procedure for elaboration, expert examination, co-ordination, approval and change of the draft territorial Master Plan of the landscape, health resort, recreation system of the administrative and territorial units of the Republic of Armenia and groups thereof

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from points 2 and 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban

development", provisions of point 9.3.2.1 of Target 1 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme" and point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

Taking into account the importance of the tourism component in Armenia for the economic development of the country, the objective of this Action is to elaborate a joint strategic document of the **draft territorial Master Plan of the landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** covering urban, architectural and construction, engineering, transport infrastructure, historical and cultural heritage, environmental issues, which will regulate and co-ordinate the mutually agreed and adopted decisions, implemented programmes and projects regarding the sector within the framework of spatial planning more effectively.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Taking into account that in the current conditions the policy of the **landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** is formed and implemented irregularly and mainly in the conditions of self-organisation of small and medium-sized economic entities, with arbitrary use of modern information and technological tools, and the target regulation of the tourism sector presupposes joint work of public activities and state support, as well as close co-operation between entities carrying out tourism activities (state administration, local self-government bodies, private sector, society, professional communities, organisations providing services) close cooperation.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of launching the **landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** as the most sustainable developing economic component of the country, it is necessary to make an inventory, assessment of the tourism resources and potential of the Republic as comprehensively as possible, and mention directions of using them based on the elaboration of outlines of allocating joint interconnected tourist zones, organising tourism system aimed at economical use.

Enshrining of conceptual provisions aimed at the organisation and development of infrastructures of the **landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** in the documents of spatial planning, assessing the impact on the environment, introducing spatial organisation.

Introducing cost-effective tourism dimensions in specially protected areas of nature.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Comprehensive assessment of existing resource potential and that being improved, establishing an interconnected network of sustainable **landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** based thereon by ensuring the use of resources economically, assessment of recreational capacity of areas, prevention of overcrowding of natural ecosystems, assessment of existing infrastructure, nomination of a unified outline of planning organisation of the reform.

Elaborating the task of the Master Plan of the territorial organisation of the **landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** of the Republic of Armenia. Within the framework of formation of a **landscape, health resort, recreation system for the administrative and territorial units and groups thereof** of the Republic of Armenia, elaborate dimensions for preservation and economical usage of historical and architectural heritage.

1.7. Elaborating a draft Decision of the Government “On approving the procedure for approving and modifying the historical and cultural justification projects of settlements or their individual parts in the republic.

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", provision of point 8.3.1 of Target 2 of Annex No 3 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme" and point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban development” of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The necessity for the adoption of the draft decision is conditioned by the fact that at present there is no procedure for expert examination of elaboration, bringing into compliance, approval and amendment of projects for historical and cultural justification of settlements and separate parts thereof.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Functions of state administration authorised bodies and state administration territorial bodies in the field of preservation of monuments, as well as functions of inter-agency commission co-ordinating works of elaboration of urban development programme documents created by Decision of the Prime Minister No 1064-A of 22 December 2009, as well as responsibilities and competences of project client and project elaborator (performer) are being regulated and clarified.

The process of organisation of elaboration, expert examination, bringing into compliance, approval of and amendment to the task of the project for historical and cultural justification and the project is being regulated.

Requirements for the composition, format and content of the project of historical and cultural justification is being clarified.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

According to paragraph (e) of part 4 of Article 17 of the Law “On urban development”, the project of historical and cultural justification of the settlements and separate parts thereof is an urban development programme document which is an initial material for the elaboration of spatial planning documents. The latter is included in the package as a separate annex, whereas the provisions are taken into account in spatial planning documents.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

An elaborated system of criteria for intervention and regulators for the objects of architectural and natural heritage of the formed urban development

environment of the settlements, preserved urban development heritage.

As a result of adoption of the decision, the process of bringing into compliance and approval of projects for historical and cultural justification of settlements and separate part thereof will be regulated, projects and tasks will be elaborated by certain joint principles and form.

1.8 Establishment of a new residential district in Shurnukh settlement of Goris community of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, point 1 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development" and point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to ensure housing conditions for families deprived of the possibility to manage their residential property (including land parcels and auxiliary constructions) because of demarcation in Shurnukh settlement of Goris community of Syunik Marz of the Republic of Armenia and to ensure the preservation of urban development environment in the mentioned settlement.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

For the purpose of co-ordinating the works conducted to reveal and operatively response the existing and possible problems in Syunik Marz in the consequence of the unleashed hostilities by the Republic of Azerbaijan, an interagency working group was established, which decided – as a result of consultation hold in Kapan in 29 January 2021 – to provide support to residents having lost their immovable property in Shurnukh and Vorotan villages. In particular, it was planned to provide financial support to those residents, and that action has already been approved in the session of the Government hold in 4 February 2021 (every resident will receive a lump-sum amount of AMD 300 thousand and AMD 68 thousand monthly for 6 months), and to build a new district in Shurnukh settlement for families deprived of the opportunity to manage their residential properties (including land parcels and auxiliary constructions) in Shurnukh settlement as a result of demarcation.

Under the state procurement contract for the implementation of contract works, upon the delegation of the Urban Development Committee, the start for conduction of construction works has already launched on 26 April 2021.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the implementation of the programme it is planned to build 13 one-storey mansions with a living basement in Shurnukh settlement, a cattle barn and auxiliary constructions will be located on the adjacent land demarcated by fence of each mansion.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the adoption of the Project, it is expected to solve the problem of housing of families deprived of the possibility to manage their residential property (including land parcels and auxiliary constructions) because of zoning in Shurnukh settlement of Goris community of Syunik Marz of the Republic of

Armenia, by construction of a residential district with 13 mansions in Shurnukh settlement.

1.9. Adopting the draft Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making supplements to the Law "On site development of the Small Centre of Yerevan" and to "Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 728-N of 26 June 2009"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development" and point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The draft Law "On the site development of the Small Centre of Yerevan" was proceeded by the elaboration of the concept paper of the law regulating the issues of site development of "The Small Centre of Yerevan", which was approved by Protocol Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 9 of 7 March 2013.

The objective of the Action is to outline the ensuring of the unity of the high-value architectural image of the Small Centre of Yerevan, improvement of the aesthetic environment of site development, construction of a healthy and attractive environment through the creation of a legal base during the development of the capital by enshrining the special and additional conditions and limitations deriving from the peculiarities of the spatial zone under consideration.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In the Republic of Armenia, the legislation of the field of urban development is regulated by law and several dozen legislative acts, by which mandatory norms serving as basis for the site development are prescribed. The analysis of the current situation and the legal framework in force states that particularly the following problems exist:

- Lack of special status of the Small Centre of Yerevan prescribed by law, which makes the definition of special and (or) additional conditions typical of the mentioned spatial zone impossible,
- Insufficient balance of state, public and private interests during site development, as well as the imperfection of co-operation mechanisms between the urban development entities (state administration, local self-government bodies, private sector, society, professional communities),
- Incomplete interconnection between spatial, economic and other development programmes (including engineering-transport infrastructures, nature protection, energy saving, etc.)
- The irregularity of the competition ideology for the acquisition of the right to elaborate projects for architectural complexes and separate structures,
- Imperfection of financial and economic tools necessary to ensure the effectiveness of regulation of site development, etc.

The draft law incorporates the contextual emphases and concerns of the above-mentioned issues as much as possible; an attempt was made to enshrine recommendations for legislative regulation for the solution of the latter.

	<p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The main objective of the draft laws is to outline the ensuring of the unity of the high-value architectural image of the Small Centre of Yerevan, improvement of the aesthetic environment of site development, construction of a healthy and attractive environment through the creation of a legal base during the development of the capital by enshrining the special and additional conditions and limitations deriving from the peculiarities of the spatial zone under consideration.</p> <p>To separate the territory of the "Small Centre" and the territory included within its immediate impact (buffer) zone as a territory of national importance, site developed with special and additional conditions, the boundaries of which are planned to be approved by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Urban development activities will be carried out through the application of realistic complex actions arising from the existing problems of site development regulation, including through elaboration, bringing into compliance an approval of urban development documents, urban development activities and management functions, through the establishment of additional and special conditions and norm on public participation and other processes.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Due to the adoption of the draft laws, the real improvement of the preservation and harmonious development of the spatial zone, which has a dominant influence on the formation of the urban development feature of the capital, is expected, the formation of a comfortable living environment endowed with high aesthetic features is expected.</p>
2	<p>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URBAN DEVELOPEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM</p> <p><u>2.1. Implementing the programme for introducing a state urban development informative system (Urban Development Cadastre)</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 1 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", point 11.4.1 of Target 4 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme" and point 2 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to create a state urban development informative system with technical and software support throughout the entire Republic, including comprehensive and accurate information on urban development objects, spatial planning, urban development norms, restrictions, as well as engineering and geological, seismic situation and other factors affecting urban development activities.</p> <p>The introduction of the system is aimed at providing a unified legal, regulatory-technical, software-technological and methodological basis, as well as the creating a system for the integration of basic and urban development and geographical-information systems and exchange of data, clarifying the whole process aimed at regulation of site development procedures, simplifying the procedures for granting administration, permissions, opinions to the</p>

competent authorities, clarifying discretionary powers.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

During the site development, the co-operation between the entities of urban development activities (state administration, local self-government bodies, private sector, society, professional communities) is in an imperfect state; in modern conditions, urban development policy is formed and implemented in the conditions of globalisation of the world economy and the technological processes imply new approaches for organising the activities of society and the people's lives.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is planned to carry out a significant part of the functions electronically through a unified system, outlining the legislative recommendations and enshrining directions for the solution of the latter.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The system will allow to conduct monitoring of processes, a joint information database in the field of architecture and construction will be created, which will contribute to the regulation and simplification of site development permit systems.

3. FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCESS THROUGH AN ONLINE SYSTEM, REDUCING THE STAGES OF GRANTING URBAN DEVELOPMENT PERMITS AND CONTEXTUAL REVIEWING OF THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES REQUIRING PERMITS

3.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On making amendments to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 596-N of 19 March 2015" to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development" and point 3 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to clarify the whole process aimed at regulation of site development procedures, simplify the procedures for granting administration, permissions, opinions to the competent authorities, clarify discretionary powers.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the current procedure, together with the architectural planning assignment (hereinafter referred to as the "APA"), the competent authority (head of the community) must also provide the developer with the technical conditions for joining the engineering infrastructures received from the supplier organisations. In practice, what has been mentioned above cannot be implemented by one step, and after receiving the APA, the developers have to apply to the supplier organisations by themselves to clarify the technical conditions, to co-ordinate the outlines of external lines of engineering infrastructures, as well

as to co-ordinate each outline with also other organisation and competent authorities.

Besides, in 2016-2017, the electronic system “e-permits” for issuing site development permits was launched, the opportunities of which to receive simultaneous agreements for acting rationally, quickly and transparently and many other opportunities, being opened in the digital environment, are practically not used, as the choice to act on-line is left at its discretion of the developer.

The next issue that has been revealed as a result of numerous discussions and the study of the actual situation, is the following: construction permits are often issued on the basis of projects submitted with incomplete composition, in particular, design documents are developed without design departments of external lines to join the engineering infrastructures, leaving the mentioned for future, as a separate process provided that each supplier organisation will carry it out. The latter, in addition to violating the requirements of the legislation in force, causes many other problems in terms of providing capacity in accordance with the requirements of the building, as well as the construction permits issued for one structure become several instead of one (one for building, the other for construction of an external power supply line, the other for the construction of external lines for water supply and water drainage, etc.).

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

By making amendments to Decision of the Government No 596-N of 19 March 2015, establish a new procedure, which will envisage to perform the significant part of functions electronically, through the “e-permits” joint system, considering it as an electronic One window, wherein all the authorities and organisations participating in the procedure will act.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the adoption of the decision, the issues related to the main stages (issuance of APA, project approval and issuance of construction permit) of site development will be regulated, a convenient, transparent operating environment (electronic One Window) will be created, which will allow meeting the requirements of all authorities and organisations on one hand, and on the other hand, due to on-line and simultaneous operation, will reduce the contacts of the developers with the latter, will save time. The system will also provide an opportunity for exercising the monitoring of the processes and will serve as a unified database of the field of construction.

3.2.Improving the processes of urban development activities

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the Action is conditioned by the simplification of processes in the sector of state urban development, safe conduct of urban development processes, systemic regulation and improvement of carrying out state and private site development, regulation and simplification of site development permits. The Action is aimed at developing the field of urban development as a separate branch of economy.

The implementation of the Action derives also from the 2021-2026 Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1363-A of 18 August 2021, i.e. point 3 of paragraph 2 of the part "Improvement of the business and investment

	<p>environment" of Section "2. Economy" and of Section 2.7 titled "Urban development".</p> <p>The legislative ground for elaboration of the envisaged documents – sub-point 1 of point 10 and sub-points 3 and 15 of point 11 of the Statute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 658-L of 1 June 2019.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Urban development is a field of architecture and construction, which comprehensively and completely covers and solves operational (economic, demographic, construction, sanitary and hygienic, environmental, aesthetic) and aesthetic (architectural, artistic) problems at various spatial levels. There are problems in the sector that need to be solved urgently in terms of improving the economic environment, including those with read to the issuance of urban development permits, the introduction of new technologies and the targeted use of local raw materials.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>For the purpose of effectively solving the mentioned problems, it is envisaged to solve the problems through comprehensive support to the initiatives in that direction and the processes of elaboration and implementation of relevant regulatory documents, simplification of procedures.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action</p> <p>Revealing and elaborating a more effective mechanism for urban development processes.</p>
4.	<p>THE URBAN ZONING PROJECT FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL REGULATION ZONES OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ADJACENT TO THE INTERSTATE AND REPUBLICAN MOTORWAYS.</p> <p><u>4.1. Elaborating joint s standards, schemes of sample designs of facilities, improvement of territories the construction of areas of special regulation zones adjacent to the interstate and republican motorways</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from points 9 and 13 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", point 5.2.4 of Target 2 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme" and provisions of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 — point 4 of paragraph 2 of sub-section 2.7 titled "Urban development" — which envisages approving maps of zones prescribing urban development requirements for each large community that will be available on-line.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to define additional and special conditions for the regulation of the site development deriving from existing key issues of site development of areas of special regulation zones adjacent to the interstate and Republican state roads near the entrances of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.</p>

	<p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Taking into account the public and urban development role and importance of [missing word] adjacent to the interstate and Republican state roads near the entrances of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, as well as analysing the site development peculiarities deriving therefrom, it should be noted that the legislative toolkit currently in effect is not sufficient to fully regulate their site development. Existing problems are the insufficient balance of state, public and private interests during construction, as well as the imperfection of cooperation between the subjects of urban development activities (public administration, local self-government bodies, private sector, society, professional circles).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Outlining the recommendations of legislative regulation and prescribing the directions for the solution of the latter and elaborating zoning projects.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Formation of a comfortable environment endowed with high aesthetic features of formation of the urban development image of the areas of special regulation zones adjacent to the interstate and Republican state roads near the entrances of the cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.</p>
5.	<p>ENSURING ELABORATION, MODERNISATION OF REGULATORY DOCUMENTS OF THE FIELD OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONISATION THEREOF WITH THE INTERNATIONAL NORMS, ACCORDING TO THE PRIORITIES OF SOLVING THE ARISING ISSUES</p> <p><u>5.1. Delegating the elaboration, localisation, modernisation of regulatory-technical documents (technical regulations, construction norms, sets of construction norms and rules, procedures) of the field of urban development to Contractor organisations</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from points of Article 10, points 5 and 19 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law “On urban development”, Chapter 5 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 “On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme”, Target 12 of Annex No 2, provisions of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law “On bodies of state administration system”, Intergovernmental agreements concluded within the framework of the CIS, EU-Armenia Comprehensive Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, challenges related to joining the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), as well as point 5 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban development” and point 14 of paragraph 1 of section entitled “Stable management of natural resources” of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to elaborate, localise, modernise the regulatory-technical documents of urban development, bring the regulatory-technical documents in force since Soviet times into compliance and harmonise them with the international and European standards, taking into account that it will promote local production and development of innovative technologies, improvement of business environment, increase in volumes of export and investments, as well as will ensure the safe and reliable exploitation of buildings and constructions.</p>

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Works of modernisation of the system of regulatory documents of the field of urban development, activities aimed at bringing those documents into compliance and harmonising them with the interstate (regional), international and European norms and standards have been performed since 1993 and are of continuous nature.

Over the past years, according to summary data, out of more than 1000 regulatory documents in effect in the Republic of Armenia, about 450 have been reviewed, elaborated (localised) and put into operation. Within the framework of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia for 2021, works are envisaged for elaboration, modernisation and localisation of 20 regulatory-technical documents at the cost of AMD98.5 million.

During 2020-2021, 6 construction norms and 2 methodological guidelines were elaborated and approved by the orders of the Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia.

Besides, 17 regulatory-technical documents were ordered upon the initiative of the Urban Development Committee:

- “Sewer. External networks and structures”,
- “Collection of rules for the use of non-metallic composite reinforcement in construction concrete and geotechnical structures”,
- “Roads”,
- “Bearing and covering structures”,
- “Residential buildings. Part II. Individual residential houses”,
- “Ensuring energy efficiency of buildings. Energy efficiency assessment indicators”,
- “Roofs and roof coverings”,
- “Protection of building structures from corrosion”,
- “Geodetic works in construction”,
- “Territory improvement”,
- “Warehouses for oil and oil products. Design norms”,
- “Underground storage of oil, oil products and liquefied gas”,
- “Collection of rules for the design of buildings and constructions using frosted steel thin-walled profiles”,
- “Administrative and residential buildings”,

- “Safety techniques in construction”,
- “Defence institution for civil defence of the Republic of Armenia”,
- “Norms of duration of design work”.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Organising successive modernisation of regulatory documents in the field of urban development in the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with interstate (regional), international and European norms and standards. The support of the Ministry of Economy with regard to the Action is expected in terms of agreeing on issue about standards, joint discussion, and mutual compliance.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

System of regulatory-technical documents in line with the interstate (regional), international and European norms and standards aimed at modernisation of specifications in terms of improvement of health and welfare of the population, protection of environment, adaptation to climate change, seismic resistance, reliability, energy efficiency of buildings and constructions, impact of water environment - design of hydro-technical structures (including elaboration of criteria and requirements in line with modern, science-based and the best practice for their construction to ensure the technical safety of tailings) and requirements development), accessibility for persons with disabilities, adaptation to climate change, as well as the civil defence.

5.1.1 Technical translation and partial localisation of urban development standards of EU member states

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

Necessity for approximation of regulatory-technical documents to EU standards.

Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The norms and standards of the Russian Federation primarily serve as the foundation for developing regulatory and technical documents. However, an Armenian-language version is needed to study EU standards, and there are challenges related to proficiency in technical English.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It has been recommended to fund the technical translation and partial localisation of up to 10 EU standards within the 2025-2027 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. However, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia has proposed addressing the issue under an EU grant Project.

5. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Ensuring/allowing approximation of regulatory-technical documents to EU standards.

5.1.2 Elaborating a methodical guidelines/manual for operation and maintenance of buildings and constructions of educational significance

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for implementation of the action stems from the provisions of point 37 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law “On Urban Development”, Chapter VI of Annex No 1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, point 7 of paragraph 2 of 2.7 “Urban development” Section of five-year Programme of the Government approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The Objective of implementation of the action is to approve the manual for maintenance and operation of educational facilities.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Pursuant to the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia currently, work is underway under the program for the construction, renovation, or reconstruction of 500 kindergartens and 300 schools (hereinafter referred to as “facilities”).

However, during regional visits to the facilities that have been put into operation, issues with their proper maintenance and operation are already visible. These problems are often due to a gap in the professional knowledge of the operators regarding the operated facility.

Considering the above-mentioned and with the goal of ensuring the safe operation of facilities (actually state-invested) for as long as possible, there is a need to develop and implement a manual for their operation and maintenance.

Such a document will serve as a methodological guide for facility operators and enable them to address and resolve issues that arise during operation as quickly as possible.

1.2 Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Developing and approving a manual for the operation and maintenance of educational facilities will have a significant positive impact on building management and will serve as a guideline for those operating the facilities.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Extending the service life of multi-apartment buildings, increasing the reliability, convenience and consumer appeal of exploitation, reducing the cost of energy resources.

5.2 Elaborating a package of recommendations aimed at modernising the methodology of construction pricing and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from part 1 of Article 86 of the Constitution, Article 10, point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", provisions of Target 13 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as point 5 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban development” of the five-year Programme of the

Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The need for effective planning of state investment costs, development of the construction sector and the creation of a favourable investment environment, in the condition of the development of market relations and international integration processes, requires the reform of the cost assessment system.

The procedure for calculating the cost of construction works at current prices was approved by Decision of the Government of No 879-N of 23 June 2011. The procedure was based on the methodologies of 1994-1995 and 2006. At present, the cost of construction works is calculated on the basis of the normative base of 1984, including the salary and value of exploitation of machinery-mechanisms is calculated by pre-existing prices using appropriate coefficients that do not take into account current requirements for the exploitation of new technologies, technical equipment and facilities, as well as the organisation of construction works (including remuneration of administrative, professional and working personnel engaged in construction). By the procedure currently in force, there are discrepancies between the costs envisaged by the estimate of construction and installation works and the "actual costs".

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is recommended to modernise the pricing of construction works in the field of urban development, especially those implemented at the expense of the state and community budgets, switching from the base index methodology to the modern resource methodology used in European and CIS countries, giving preference to the procedure for calculating the cost of construction at increased prices – in the conditions of state investment cost planning — which will further clarify the organisation of the budget cost programme planning and procurement process.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Elaborating a roadmap for introducing a new methodology meeting the modern requirements instead of outdated (yet of the Soviet era) methods of methodology of construction pricing, defining the scope of the legislative and secondary legislative acts subject to review.

5.3. Elaborating the draft order of the Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia “On approving the list of reusable exemplary projects and general specifications”

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 26 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", provisions of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as from point 5 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban development” of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to provide reusable projects for coming years for the construction of a great number of new subsidiary units of pre-school and

school buildings, healthcare, agricultural and residential facilities.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In the near future, new building complexes with almost similar technical and economic indicators, powers, "capacities" and modern constructive solutions are required for the main part of the new subsidiary units of educational, healthcare, residential and agricultural facilities and constructions envisaged in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia. Such a demand is evident in the construction programmes implemented in the marzes of the Republic of Armenia, where there are a large number of buildings in a deplorable state, with a high degree of physical and moral depreciation - educational, healthcare, residential, agricultural facilities and other objects. The need to build new ones instead of those facilities and the urgency of solving problems in terms of timeframes is on the agenda. In case of large demand, by envisaging partial changes (in terms of non-constructive solutions), the use of reusable exemplary projects is considered economically viable and expedient.

In other words, the problems with regard to the main set of exemplary project documents approved by the order of the head of the authorized body are almost non-existent and the further processes are considered only within the framework of installation actions, which in practice will save costs and time.

As in the approved exemplary projects, the installation problems refer mainly to the 0 "stage" of the structures, the costs of the project changes (without the surface section) required for the latter are regulated by the order of the Minister of Urban Development No 19-N of 15 February 2008, according to the approved (20%) normative to be applied to the total cost of the design work. For example, where the cost of an exemplary project was AMD 10,000.0 thousand, the cost of its installation (for each territory) will be $AMD\ 10,000.0 \times 20\% = AMD\ 2000.0$ thousand. The accommodation costs for 6 schools will be 6×2000.0 thousand drams = 12000.0 thousand drams. And cost of installation for 6 schools will be $6 \times AMD\ 2000.0$ thousand = AMD 12000.0 thousand.

In case of non-use of reusable projects, the cost of elaborating project documents required for 1 educational object (or subsidiary unit) under construction varies from AMD 5000.0 thousand to AMD 25000.0 thousand.

The duration for designing 1 construction object under construction (of average volume of 1500-5000 square meters) is up to 8-10 months, or about 300-350 calendar days. In the case of installation of an approved exemplary project (0 characters each), the time required shall not exceed 30% -40% of the total duration of project elaboration.

It should be noted that the "Procedure for the introduction and application of reusable exemplary projects and their catalogues in the Republic of Armenia" approved by Decision of the Government No 814-N of 12 June 2012 is in force.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The project prescribes to regulate the possibility of using reusable exemplary projects by developers by a departmental act. The project prescribes to approve the list of a number of reusable exemplary projects and their main specifications elaborated in 2020-2021 by the delegation of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia, which will sequentially be supplemented with new exemplary projects, subject to reuse, to be elaborated (subject to elaboration) during the coming budget years.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>With the adoption of the project, it is expected to make the implementation of construction projects implemented at the expense of the state and community budgets of the Republic of Armenia more affordable, reducing the volume and duration of design works.</p> <p><u>5.4 Elaborating legislative regulations for applying the principle of "joint procurement", i.e. elaborating a draft Law "On making amendments to the Law "On Urban Development" and submitting it to the Office of the Prime Minister (elaborating and coordinating the draft law, submitting recommendations in respect of other legislative regulations with regard to phasing (division) of drafting works, clarification of methodologies of repeated and accompanying expert examination, elaborating special procedures).</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p><u>The regulations outlined in this action may, if necessary, be envisaged in contractor agreements under existing procurement legislation. Therefore, there is no need of other legal regulations, and it is recommended to remove them from the Programme.</u></p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p>
6.	<p>FORMING A SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL BASE, PREPARING (TRAINING) SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN CONSTRUCTION, ELABORATING AND IMPLEMENTING METHODS FOR OVERSEEING THE QUALITY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS WITH LOCAL RAW MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION</p> <p><u>6.1. Elaborating and implementing a programme for modernisation (rehabilitation) of the Expertise Centre for Urban Development Projects</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action was planned based on points 20 and 25 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law “On urban development”, Target 15 of Annex No 2 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as provisions of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, Step 6 of paragraph 2 of sub-section 2.7 titled "Urban development" whereof envisages to establish scientific and research and experimental base for the purpose of introducing new technologies in the construction, elaborating and implementing methods for control of construction materials with local raw materials and the quality of the construction materials, to prepare (train) scientific personnel, which will provide an opportunity to ensure the implementation of continuous and consistent works aimed at the rapid response to, application and introduction of innovative technologies, ensuring relative regulatory framework upon necessity, replenishment of material and technical base, providing support to local producers and developing the business capabilities.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to establish a scientific and research and expertise centre of the field of urban development through the re-organisation, re-</p>

equipment of “Expertise Centre for Urban Development Projects” Joint-Stock Company (hereinafter referred to as the “Company”), by the involvement of technical and professional potential.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Based on the results of researches on construction materials, natural raw materials, technological features of obtaining structural elements from them, it is planned to ensure the activities of the Company by the elaboration of scientifically grounded experimental and analytical materials for the application of seismically stable systems, construction norms, control over the quality of local raw materials and construction, new construction technology.

Both legal and regulatory-technical regulations are needed to increase the effectiveness of the implementation of urban development programmes, to create a new culture in the field of construction, to introduce new technologies, to use new construction materials and structures.

Laboratory tests, scientific and research study and relevant conclusions are almost required for the start of such innovative processes. At present, studies and analysis on possible solutions to problems requiring new approaches are carried out within the framework of discussions of the Scientific and Technical Council adjunct to the Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia, in a number of cases also by making situational decisions.

The prospect or vision for solving these problems is directly related to the rehabilitation (re-organisation) and modernisation of the “Expertise Centre for Urban Development Projects” Joint-Stock Company (hereinafter referred to as the “Company”).

At present, the main directions of the Company's activities are the following:

- expert examination (including double and accompanying) of a project,
- study of the technical condition of buildings and construction,
- elaboration of urban development regulatory documents,
- conduction of control of the construction quality.

The laboratory base of the Company is mainly physically and morally worn out, not up-to-date, as a result of which almost all the inspection and research works carried out are based on either theoretical or ophthalmological studies.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

As the legal successor of the “Armenian Research Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Protection of Constructions” Joint-Stock Company, which has been operating in the field of seismically construction since 1995, it is obvious that the current technical, professional and financial resources of the Company need to be replenished and supported.

Considering the main directions of the activities of the Company, it can be concluded that many of them relate to strategic issues in the field of urban

development, i.e.

- civil and industrial buildings/constructions, engineering infrastructures, strategic energy and defence complexes), their passportisation, elaboration of relevant preventive measures and new technologies, as well as to the most important task of transferring the work experience of many years in the field of science and science and research gained by the Company. Examination of the technical condition of the most important objects (civil-industrial buildings / structures, engineering infrastructures, energy-strategic energy-defence complexes), passportisation, appropriate preventive measures, development of new technologies, as well as scientific and scientific research acquired by the company over the years. to the most important case of transfer of experience.

Taking into account the above-mentioned, it is planned to hold a multilateral discussion — elaboration of a draft programme for rehabilitation and modernisation of the Company — on the possible change of the organisational-legal form (privatisation/purchase of a non-state share by the state) of the Company within a short period of time.

The actions envisaged for the rehabilitation, development of the Company may be divided into the following directions:

- improvement of building conditions — reconstruction, capital renovation of existing subsidiary units, in accordance with the criteria for the modern expertise centres,
- significant increase of the level of laboratory, technical opportunities — establishment of laboratories for testing of the construction materials, articles and constructions, physicochemical laboratories, taking into account the fact that the territory of the Republic of Armenia is located in a seismically active zone, also creation of opportunities for dynamic tests,
- Replenishment and training of professional staff.

In the process of implementing the above-mentioned actions, it is expected that the Ministry of Economy will assist the involvement of financial means from sources not prohibited by law (international donor organisations, business environment, etc.) for the regulation of the problem.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The availability of equipped laboratories and highly qualified specialists will enable the Company to carry out the inspection of high-risk urban development objects, buildings of historical and cultural value, technical condition of buildings (ophthalmological and instrumental).

Currently, the expertise of urban development documents is a licensed activity, which is carried out by private companies, which is considered an advanced process in terms of liberalisation of the market.

However, as a result of monitoring of urban development processes, there are also cases where urban development documents are returned to the organisation conducting the basic expertise for a double (or alternative) expertise, which cannot guarantee that the latter is "absolutely safe" or complete.

The establishment of urban development expert groups in the Company will provide an opportunity to have a functioning expert body within the state

administration body, to which appropriate powers and responsibilities will be defined, which will contribute to ensuring the proper level of expertise.

In general, the activity of laboratories equipped with modern equipment in the field of urban development is necessary for the study, testing (certification) of new construction materials, articles or constructions imported to the Republic of Armenia or produced locally.

Thus, the re-organisation and activities of the Company — as an expertise centre with special powers — will provide an opportunity to modernise the most important expertise base, combine construction production and scientific thought, ensure the progress of the urban development sector, including under state control and care.

7.	<p align="center">PROVIDING NECESSARY LEGAL GROUNDS FOR INCREASING THE LEVEL OF RELIABILITY AND SEISMIC SAFETY OF BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTIONS</p>
	<p><u>7.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the procedure for declaring residential, public and industrial buildings and constructions unfit for use (subject to demolition) due to the technical condition" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from Articles 82 and 86 of the Constitution, part 1 of Article 285 of the Civil Code, , points 3, 12 and 20 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", provisions of Chapter 6 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as sub-point 1 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The main objective of the Action is to legally regulate the problem of demolition of residential, public and industrial buildings and constructions assessed as crumbling, unfit for use, for the implementation of construction programmes for the purpose of complex development of the territories, to ensure the safety of human life, health and the environment.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>In the Republic of Armenia, no sufficient and co-ordinated approaches were shown aimed at the preservation and reliable operation of residential, public and industrial buildings. The volume of works carried out to strengthen, restore and increase seismic resistance of buildings was insufficient There are many buildings in which the failure to timely eliminate the existing defects (damage to water supply or drainage systems, insufficient technical condition of the roof, decomposition of the slab, etc.) u etc.) requiring current repairs or the unauthorised interventions in changes and violation of integrity of bearing constructions (construction of openings, structural transformations of structural load-bearing elements, etc.) have become a reason for the reduction of the initial seismic level of buildings, leading to insufficient technical condition, and later to the emergence of possible accidents.</p> <p>As a result, due to physical depreciation, as well as various natural and technogenic factors, most of the buildings are in poor or damaged technical condition. Such buildings are not reliable in terms of seismic resistance and their further operation is dangerous for human safety and the environment.</p>

At present, the normative deadlines for the operation of most of the buildings and constructions in operation have long since expired. Due to various dangerous natural phenomena and technogenic influences, there is a high, unacceptable level of their damage and physical depreciation. Therefore, for the purpose of ensuring the natural and reliable operation of such buildings and constructions, it is necessary to carry out co-ordinated control over their technical condition.

Within the framework of the given Action, on the initiative of the Urban Development Committee, the "Methodology for assessing the priority of increasing the seismic resistance (earthquake resistance) of buildings and construction of different significance" has already been elaborated, which has been approved by Order of the Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee No 41-N of 26 May 2021.

The draft Decision of the Government "On approving the procedure for declaring residential, public and industrial buildings/constructions unfit for use (subject to demolition) due to the technical condition" was elaborated next, which was submitted to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia for legal-expert opinion.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of ensuring the safety requirements and implement site development programmes in the Republic of Armenia, particularly in urban communities, it is recommended to regulate the issue of demolition of emergency residential, public and industrial buildings and constructions by defining relevant legal regulations, including mandatory requirements.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Effective implementation of actions aimed at the management, safe and secure operation, increase of seismic resistance of buildings and constructions, by excluding the further operation of residential, public and industrial buildings and constructions declared crumbling, by developing the urban development environment and ensuring the continuous process of their subsequent demolition.

7.1.2 Submitting recommendation on surveys and preventive measures in more dangerous landslides, elaborating a draft Order of the Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee "On making supplements in Order of the Chairperson of the State Committee for Urban Development adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 128-N of 11 September 2017" (elaborating additional regulatory requirements for designing urban development objects — replenishing the Order with provisions on landslide control and preventive measures, ensuring the awareness of the newly elaborated requirements)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity of digitising and mapping landslide-prone areas as an important baseline datum for urban development activities and an integral part of development projects.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, the majority of development programs do not include data or do not register indicators related to the landslide situation in the

development area, nor do they mandate anti-landslide measures at the design stage of urban development projects.

Solutions recommended for the existing issues

1. It is recommended to map, digitize the registered landslide areas/territories

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Establishing essential source data for elaboration of development projects and incorporating anti-landslide measures into project documentation.

7.2. Elaborating programmes for surveys and preventive measures in more dangerous landslides, replenishing the regulatory requirements for designing urban development objects with provisions on landslide, preventive measures

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 5 and 5.1 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", provisions of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as sub-point 1 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to ensure the safety of human life, health and environment through the elaboration and implementation of policy actions in the sector of urban development.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

As a result of decoding aerial and space photos of the territory of the Republic, 2504 landslide sites were mapped, the total area of which is 1216 sq. Km. 233 settlements of the Republic are located in landslide areas, 236 km of roads and 4.8 km of railways are damaged and destroyed by landslides.

Landslides are the most catastrophic of the geological phenomena caused by natural and technogenic impacts, which are a source of ever-evolving and ever-increasing danger.

Landslide is a dynamic process and the action elaborated for that point may lose its expediency due to the development of the process and additional researches and elaboration of new projects will be required. Therefore, anti-landslide measures, as a rule, must be carried out within the timeframe set by the project. Conditioned by this, in the absence of regular funding, it makes no sense to start not only construction, but also design and research works, as they are closely interconnected (inseparable, irreplaceable) processes. Landslides have caused great and continue to cause damage to homes, infrastructures, livelihood facilities, industrial facilities, the environment of the landslide areas of the Republic, threatening the lives of the residents of those areas. Landslides cause desertification of settlements, impoverishment, evacuation, emigration of the population, emergence of a number of social problems and hinder economic development and population growth. Therefore, studies, forecasting and prevention of landslide phenomena are important for the

development of communities, preservation and targeted use of territories, ensuring safety of population and environmental protection.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

It is necessary to involve the fight against the landslide disaster — as a strategic direction of internal security — in the medium-term and long-term state programmes, to prevent dangers and reduce risks through consistent solutions with a co-ordinated approach based on the results of researches, and to fully control the situation, respond and counter act, to emergencies through permanent monitoring.

The effective solution of the landslide problem in the Republic requires a co-ordinated approach - stable funding of the whole complex of planned works (research, drafting, construction).

Necessity arises to review the requirements (architectural planning assignment) for design of urban development objects, which are expected to be supplemented by the requirement of implementing mandatory anti-landslide (including preventive) measures on construction lands conditioned by landslide phenomena.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

The implementation of the Action will provide an opportunity to assess the landslide risk and danger, identify the factors of emergence and activation of landslides, alert about the landslide disaster to ensure the safety of the residents, prevent the danger, reduce the amount of and exclude damage, substantiate the implementation of design-research works and engineering protection actions in landslide-hazardous areas requiring priority actions, to assess the technical condition of residential, public and industrial buildings/constructions located in landslide sites of the Republic, to create an information database on the landslide sites.

7.2.1 Mapping landslide areas using Geographic Information System (GIS)

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The implementation of the Action was envisaged by taking as a basis point 2 of Article 19 of the Law “On urban development”, points 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54 of Annex No 1 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 “ On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme”. In case of mapping, the creation of an essential information system for urban development, will be accompanied by preventive technical measures against landslides and will ensure in future reliable, long-term operational conditions for buildings and structures, ultimately leading to cost-efficiency/allocation of capital resources. The Action, by nature, is also aimed at organising priority activities for climate change adaptation. The creation of a geoportal for territorial data as part of a geographic information system will enable short-term and long-term accurate forecasts of regional data, support community policy documents, modernize other strategic programmes, and promote investment initiatives.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Currently, information regarding landslide areas requires updating and coordination. This information, which is documentary in nature, is not fully

	<p>accessible to state, community, and private contracting authorities involved in large-scale development projects (such as road construction, social housing, school construction, etc.).</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended to initiate the development of a digital map of landslide areas using a GIS system, create technical specifications during the preparatory stage, with the collaboration of professional potential of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, and Ministry of High-Tech Industry.</p>
8.	<p>REPLENISHING A NUMBER OF OBJECTS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE WITH SPECIAL DESIGN SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THEIR OPERATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</p> <p><u>8.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the list of a number of objects of utmost significance subject to replenishment with special design solutions and the action plan ensuring the accessibility of their operation" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from part 8 of Article 86 of the Constitution, point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", requirements of Article 17 of the Law "On the rights of persons with disabilities", provisions of Chapter 1 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as sub-point 3 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is to ensure safety of life, health and environment, the accessibility of operation of buildings for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The site development of residential, public and industrial facilities in the territory of the Republic of Armenia was carried out mostly during the Soviet years; a significant part of the building stock and infrastructures is not provided with appropriate constructive solutions and is not adapted for safe and accessible operation by persons with disabilities (including population groups with limited mobility).</p> <p>In the field of urban development, there are a number of regulatory documents that regulate the issues related to the accessibility of urban development objects, but their full application, especially in existing buildings, is considered quite complicated and problematic, as most of them are in non-sufficient or insufficient technical condition and the degrees of physical depreciation and seismic vulnerability are considered high.</p> <p>Main regulatory documents regulating the mentioned issues are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction norms "The availability of buildings and constructions for population groups with limited mobility" HHSn IV-11.07.01-2006,

- Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 392-N of 16 February 2006 "On approving the procedure for ensuring availability of social, transport and engineering infrastructures for persons with disabilities and population groups with limited mobility",
- Order of the Chairperson of the State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 43-A of 5 April 2018 "On approving the set of design rules for ensuring the accessibility of buildings and constructions to population groups with limited mobility and persons with disabilities",
- VSN norms 62-91* "Проектирование среды жизнедеятельности с учетом потребностей инвалидов и маломобильных групп населения" (Designing the living environment taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities and population groups with limited mobility)".

In itself, the implementation of these actions requires certain financial investments, which must be justified by the degree of stability and reliability of the building. There are problems also with regard to those buildings that are owned by more than one person; actions that are agreed-upon require the consent of at least the majority of the owners and financial means proportionately invested by them.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Taking into account the fact that most of the regulatory documents ensuring the legal regulations of the sector have been adopted since the Soviet years, and the site development of residential, public and industrial facilities in the territory of the Republic of Armenia were carried out mostly during the Soviet years, thus a significant part of the building stock and infrastructures is not provided with appropriate constructive solutions and is not adapted for safe and accessible operation by persons with disabilities (including population groups with limited mobility).

It should be noted that at present, the implementation of such actions is generally considered possible within the framework of actions of new site development and/or complex reconstruction of buildings-constructions, upon the mutual consent of the sole owner or owners.

It is recommended by the draft to approve the list of a number of objects of significant importance (which are exclusively of state or community significance and are valued for their belonging to historical and cultural monuments) and to replenish them with special design solutions through the stage-by stage implementation of the action plan, for the purpose of making them safe and accessible for persons with disabilities (including population groups with limited mobility).

4. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Provision of a number of objects of significant importance with special design solutions and their adaptation for persons with disabilities (including population groups with limited mobility).

9.	INTRODUCING A SYSTEM FOR GRANTING PASSPORTS TO BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTIONS
	<u>9.1. Submitting the draft Decisions of the Government "On approving the package of drafts on making amendments to the Law "On urban development" and to related laws and "On defining the procedure for granting passports to buildings and constructions" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u>

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of Article 86 of the Constitution, points 12 and 20 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", provisions of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 "On approving the Strategic programme of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia and the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the programme", as well as sub-points 4 and 5 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is to regulate and/or identify the scope of ensuring the mandatory regulatory requirements (actions) prescribed or to be prescribed for safe, reliable and accessible exploitation of buildings and constructions of various significance through passportisation of buildings and constructions, which will serve as a basis for the introduction of a unified information database (base) of the main and most important data of urban development objects and for elaborating a strategic prospective programmes.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of full implementation of functions of management, reliable and safe exploitation of buildings and constructions of various significance is conditioned by the availability of building design solutions, construction performance documents, as well as the data on the actual technical condition of the buildings and on monitoring observations. However, in many cases, the mentioned technical documents are not preserved, as a result of which the bodies, owners conducting the management and exploitation of buildings and constructions may not have the necessary technical data.

The normative deadlines for the exploitation of most of the buildings and constructions of various significance currently in operation have long since expired, and due to various hazardous natural phenomena and technogenic impacts there is a significant increase in their damage, physical depreciation, and separate buildings are exploited for other purposes. Therefore, for the purpose of ensuring the reliable exploitation of such buildings and constructions for their intended purpose, it is necessary to carry out co-ordinated control over their technical condition.

For the purpose of reducing and neutralising the hazardous natural phenomena and technogenic impacts, detecting the emergencies in time and assessing the seismic risk, it is necessary to create a unified database on the technical condition of all buildings and constructions and to introduce a monitoring system. For that, it is necessary to ensure passportisation of buildings and constructions being newly built and to organise passportisation of existing buildings and constructions of various significance, as a result of which the data of technical passports issued will be necessary and sufficient basis for elaboration of co-ordinated programmatic approaches aimed at the maintenance and safe exploitation of buildings and constructions, as well as for implementing actions ensuring the requires level of seismic resistance in accordance with the requirements of legislation and regulatory and technical documents in force.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

By attaching importance to the start of global passportisation of the buildings and constructions, it is necessary to ensure the creation of a legal framework ensuring the implementation of that process. The process of elaborating the relevant legal regulations has already started; the package of drafts on making amendments and supplements to the Law "On urban development" and to related laws and the draft Decision of the Government deriving therefrom "On

granting passports to newly built and existing buildings and constructions of various significance" were elaborated, which were discussed with the interested bodies and sent for state legal expert examination.

In parallel with the package of drafts, model forms of passports and the methodology for filling them in were developed.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

As a result of the adoption of the draft, it is expected to define requirements for the implementation of passportisation of newly constructed and existing buildings and construction of various significance, the forms of passports and filling them in.

10. INTRODUCING A RATING SYSTEM FOR ORGANISATIONS CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

10.1. Submitting the draft Laws "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On licensing", "On making supplements and amendments to the Law "On state duty", "On making supplements and amendments to the Law "On urban development" and "On making supplements and amendments to the Law "On liability for offences in the field of urban development" to the Office of the Prime Minister.

1. The necessity and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from sub-point 7 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, Target 9 (point 6.2 titled "Services provided by the state to the public" of the Action Plan of the Government) of the list of actions ensuring the implementation of Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia of Annex No 2 approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, which will be also aimed at the Anti-corruption strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the implementation of Chapter titled "4.3 Anti-corruption education and awareness" of the 2019-2022 Action Plan.

At present, there is no classification of types of urban development activities for economic entities, as well as responsible specialists. It is planned to ensure the process of issuing licenses in accordance with the classification of types of urban development activities, including electronically.

For ensuring professional activities in compliance with the classification of types of urban development activities, it is planned to implement the introduction of process of certification of continuous professional development of responsible specialists carrying out licensed activities in the field of urban development.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the regulations of the current legal acts, the licensed entity is allowed to perform functions of performing activities of elaboration and/or expertise of urban development documents of any complexity and degree of risk or construction works.

The actual entries into the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia from the main functions performed in recent years are presented:

Issued: in 2016 — 209 licenses and 434 inserts, in 2017 — 236 licenses and 503 inserts, in 2018 — 204 licenses and 367 inserts, in 2019 — 473 licenses and 1214 inserts.

Stopped: in 2016 — 94 licenses and 175 inserts, in 2017 — 97 licenses and 178 inserts, in 2018 — 81 licenses and 167 inserts, in 2019 — 60 licenses and 124 inserts.

In 2016-2019, AMD 324, 43 million, 344,65 million, 322,73 million and 355,08 million were actually credited to the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia as an annual state duty and penalty respectively, and AMD 339,50 million, 343,58 million, 326,88 million and 347,10 million as was as a forecast.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Licensing of the types of urban development activities according to the class ranking of the licenses and certification of responsible specialists according to categories of the specialists.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Ensuring amendments and supplements to the Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On urban development", "On licensing", "On state duty" and "On liability for offences in the field of urban development". Forming economic entities in the sector, as well as regulating market relations.

10.2. Adopting draft Decisions of the Government "On approving the procedures for licensing, certification, testing of specialists, formation of register of specialists and organisations and for maintenance of the structure", as well as "On approving the five-year schedule for ongoing professional development of the specialists"

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", sub-point 7 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021, Targets 9 and 10 of the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia of Annex No 2 approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, which will be also aimed at the Anti-corruption strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the implementation of Chapter titled "4.3 Anti-corruption education and awareness" of the 2019-2022 Action Plan.

The necessity for the adoption of the project is conditioned by the necessity for ensuring the continuity of consistent steps aimed at improving the business environment in the field of urban development, further regulation and simplification of licensing procedures, as well as reduction of corruption risks, by passing over direct contact between the licensing body and the applicant as far as possible at different stages of the procedures for licensing.

It is recommended by the Project to optimise legislative acts regulating separate stages of licensing procedures, approved in different years and in force at present (Decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 774-N of 2 July 2009, No 775-N of 2 July 2009, No 777-N of 2 July 2009, No 788-N of 2 July 2009, No 1533-N of 27 January 2018), through combining them into one single document, eliminating the existing cross-cuttings and duplications, setting more clear and simple conditions for issuing licenses, correlating them with the level of risk of objects. Taking into account the fact of combining the mentioned legal acts, a necessity has arisen to repeal a number of decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, there are no criteria prescribed for licensing and certification of economic entities or accordingly

The types of licenses in the field of urban development are defined by a number of decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, which contain a number of forms for each field, causing some difficulty for the applicant, in particular, for filling in the form and submitting the necessary information attached to the application. In addition, a number of provisions prescribed by existing legal acts, including issues and functions of submitting requirements for qualification and other licensing requirements and the formation of economic entities need to be reviewed and clarified.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Licensing of the types of urban development activities according to the class ranking of the licenses and certification of responsible specialists according to categories of the specialists.

Creating a simple, transparent and cost-effective environment for state regulations, services, and administrative procedures of business activities. Consistent improvement of continuous development of professional qualification through application of international best practices and localisation.

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Creating an equal competitive field for economic entities, as well as raising the requirements for professional qualification and the responsibility.

Establishing the structure and content of the urban development documents prescribed by Law, as well as a unified procedure for licensing in compliance with the types and classification of activities subject to licensing in the field of urban development.

10.3. Defining the requirements for the professional criteria and qualification of specialists working in the field of urban development upon the order of the Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", amendments envisaged to be made to Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On licensing", "On state duty" and "On liability for offences in the field of urban development", Targets 9 and 10 of the list of actions ensuring the implementation of the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia of Annex No 2 approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021 and sub-point 7 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

It is planned by the project to ensure the organisation of the licensing process of economic entities carrying out urban development activities. In accordance with the procedures for classification, licensing and certification in the field of urban development prescribed by law, to define clear, favourable and complete professional qualification requirements for entities licensed in the field of urban development, which will be approved by the order of the

Chairperson of the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

At present, there are no established criteria for licensing or certification of economic entities or responsible specialists, respectively and these processes are regulated only by documents certifying the qualification provided by the higher education institution and (or) professional work experience of 3 years in a row.

It is necessary to define classification of the professional qualifications and technique/ equipment according to the types of professional activities.

Implement certification of specialists in accordance with the types of continuous professional development.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Clearly define the types of continuous professional development, the individual composition and the operations procedure of the professional commissions. Define the procedures for carrying out activities in accordance with the types of urban development activities for the licensed economic entities and specialists and characteristics of the responsible specialists, the test questionnaires, the text of the notice and the requirements for the candidates (being licensed, certified).

2. Expected outcome from implementation of the Action

Defining the requirements for the organisation, implementation of professional characteristics in accordance with the types of urban development activities subject to licensing, the individual composition and the operations procedure of the professional commissions, exemplary forms of employment contracts, testing questionnaires, text of the notice and requirements for contenders, list of professional qualifications and classification of the technique/equipment, as well as defining the requirements for the organisation, implementation of and participation in the actions ensuring continuous professional development, clarifying the quantity of credits of ongoing professional development and the criteria for their issuance for every profession.

10.4. Establishing a register of economic entities and specialists in the field of urban development

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the amendments envisaged to the Laws of the Republic "On urban development", "On licensing", "On state duty", "On liability for offences in the field of urban development", Targets 9 and 10 of the list of actions ensuring the implementation of Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021. From sub-point 7 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

By the implementation of the Action, a licensing and certification register will be introduced in the licensing process in the field of urban development, where a register of specialists and organisation will be introduced, rating, maintenance of structure and monitoring will be conducted automatically, which will also be aimed at the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and the 2019-2022 action plan of Chapter "4.3 Anti-corruption education and

	<p>awareness" of the implementation thereof.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>At present, there are no processes prescribed by law for conducting rating for a legal or individual entrepreneur.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure the interoperability of the register logs acting in bodies being licensed with the databases acting in other interested state bodies (State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Agency of State Register of Legal Entities, etc.) and acting electronic platforms, to introduce rating of urban development organisations and specialists.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>The Creation and maintenance of the register logs of the licensed economic entities and specialists will facilitate their involvement in the urban development processes. Criteria, conditions and requirements of automatic rating will be clearly established, which will create an equal competitive field for the economic entities operating in the field of urban development.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>In the context of digital management, it is envisaged to switch to the digitisation of licensing and certification of urban development activities, the creation and maintenance of a platform for a unified register of licensed organisations and certified specialists, which will bring that process into compliance with the current market demand, will make it rational, quick and transparent, the implementation whereof will result in formation of economic entities in the field in compliance with the demand, as well as regulation of market relations.</p> <p>The introduction of the system is beneficial for the quality of the provision of services, comfortability of enjoying the services, saving time and money, as well as reducing unnecessary paperwork and administration.</p>
11.	<p>INTRODUCING PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL MECHANISMS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EXPERTISE OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS</p> <p><u>11.1. For the purpose of regulating relations concerning the expertise of the urban development documents, adopting the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On urban development"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development" and sub-point 8 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The quality of urban development documents and the solutions reflected therein have essential impact in ensuring favourable environment for vital activity.</p>

	<p>The legislation in force prescribes that the urban development documents must comply with the requirements of urban development regulatory-technical acts and other regulatory legal acts of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended upon the implementation of the Action to regulate relations concerning the expertise of the urban development documents through making amendments and supplements to the Law "On urban development".</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Define certain requirements for the experts, define their rights and responsibilities, types, main principles of expertise of urban development documents.</p> <p><u>11.2. Adopting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the procedure for legal regulations of the expertise, co-ordination of and amendment to urban development documents, form of the expert opinion and the procedure for granting it"</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development" and sub-point 8 of point 7 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The quality of urban development documents and the solutions reflected therein have essential impact in ensuring favourable environment for vital activity. The legislation in force prescribes that the urban development documents must comply with the requirements of urban development regulatory-technical acts and other regulatory legal acts of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>It is recommended upon the implementation of the Action to prescribe a secondary regulation ensuring the application of a law on making amendments and supplements to the Law "On urban development" prescribed by Action 11.1.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <p>Conducting a complex expertise of urban development documents of a state expertise body, independent of bodies conducting expertise, through certified experts, opportunity for adopting complex solutions.</p> <p>The bodies conducting supervision will be provided an opportunity to appeal the revealed design deficiencies to the expertise body to render a final decision.</p>
12.	<p>ROOTING SUSTAINABLE MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FUNCTIONS OF MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND EXPLOITATION OF THE MULTI-APARTMENT HOUSING FUND</p>

12.1. Adopting the draft Decision of the Government "On approving the concept paper of reforming the system of management of multi-apartment buildings"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from paragraphs (a) and (c) of Article 10, point 3 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is the improvement of the function aimed at ensuring safe exploitation of multi-apartment buildings — regulations concerning the management of a multi-apartment building.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

The Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" was adopted in 2002, but functions of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment housing fund was not completely fulfilled, mainly conditioned by the gaps in the legislative and institutional environment, as well as limitedness of financial resources.

Therefore, a need arises to fundamentally reform the system of management of multi-apartment buildings revising the regulations existing in the field of management of a multi-apartment building, to regulate issues and relations existing in the field, separating building management and maintenance functions and enshrining competences and responsibilities of entities operating in the field, simplify the management mechanism, introduce a specialised system of multi-apartment buildings, etc.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Approve the concept paper for reforming the system of management of multi-apartment buildings by the end of 2022, outlining the directions, targets of reforms of the field, steps and actions needed to be taken to reach them for the coming years, and from 2023 on launch the implementation of actions deriving from the concept paper.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Outlining the function aimed at the maintenance and safe exploitation of multi-apartment buildings — that is to say outlining the roadmap of reforms of the management system.

12.2. Adopting Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on approving draft Law "On making amendments" to the Law "On management of multi-apartment building"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of point 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter

9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban development” of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is enshrining the principled long-term solutions and strategic approaches in the field of management of multi-apartment buildings.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

For the purpose of regulating the problems existing in the field of management of multi-apartment buildings, inter-agency working group established upon Decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia No 1160-A of 20 August 2019 raised a number of issues of the sector, issues subject to regulation, which, according to the priority of the solution, were divided into two phases — medium-term and long term.

Based thereon, with regard to action of point 12.2, draft Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the concept paper for reforming the system of management of multi-apartment buildings and the action plan stemming therefrom", which envisaged to outline the reform directions for the next 2 years, the necessary steps to achieve them, and referred to the problems in the field of management of multi-apartment buildings, which will be relevant in any scenario of review of the Law "On management of multi-apartment buildings".

As a result of the discussion of the draft Concept Paper with the interested state bodies and the professional community, it was decided to initiate the process of elaborating a new law and to summarise all the issues subject to regulation that require medium-term and long-term solutions in the draft of the new law, thereby showing a more systematic approach to the regulation of the problems in the field.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Wording of the Law on “Management of multi-apartment buildings” with a new edition, which will enshrine principled and long-term solutions reforming the system of management of multi-apartment buildings.”

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Increase of the effectiveness of management of the common shared property of the multi-apartment building, establishment and empowerment of management bodies, introduction of a system for specialised management of a multi-apartment building, increase of the participation of the owners in solving of problems existing in the field, creation of preconditions for the implementation of institutional reforms in the field.

13 REGULATING ISSUES EXISTING IN THE FIELD OF MULTI-APARTMENT BUILDING MANAGEMENT AND ENSURING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF LEGISLATION

13.1. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government “On approving the rules on maintenance and exploitation, modernisation (including on increasing the energy efficiency and energy saving) of multi-apartment buildings upon the Order of the Urban Development Committee” to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 2 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is approving the rules on maintenance and exploitation, modernisation (including on increasing the energy efficiency and energy saving) of multi-apartment buildings upon the Order of the Urban Development Committee.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In the Republic of Armenia, there are more than 545 thousand buildings and constructions of various significance, about 19 thousand of which are multi-apartment buildings. Extending the service life of multi-apartment buildings, increasing the reliability, convenience and consumer appeal of exploitation, reducing the cost of energy resources. Maintenance and exploitation activities of those buildings are neither properly performed by the owners of multi-apartment buildings, nor by persons elected by them fulfilling maintenance functions, no modernisation activities are carried out, and no single approach is demonstrated with regard to activities carried out, which leads to the reduction of their service life, decrease in the reliability and consumption characteristics.

In its turn, the above-mentioned leads to deterioration of technical state of those buildings and, to exclude the irreversible consequences, the participation of the state in the activities of safe exploitation and increase of reliability becomes unavoidable.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Elaborating and approving rules on maintenance and exploitation, modernisation (including on increasing the energy efficiency and energy saving) of multi-apartment buildings, which will have essential positive impact from the point of view of maintenance and exploitation of buildings and will be a guidance for the persons performing management functions.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Extending the service life of multi-apartment buildings, increasing the reliability, convenience and consumer characteristics of exploitation, reducing the cost of energy resources.

13.2. Submitting the relevant draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 2 of point 8 of paragraph

2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is the reviewing of the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" for the purpose of regulating certain issues already recorded.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

For the purpose of regulating issues existing in the field of management of a multi-apartment building, the following issues have been recorded, among other issues, by the working group set upon Decision of the Prime Minister No 1160-A of 20 August 2019:

In the field of management of a multi-apartment building:

- competences of the authorised state administration body, territorial administration and local self-government bodies are not separated;
- transfer of documents by the developer to the management body of a building after the construction of a multi-apartment building is not regulated;
- transfer of the property constituting common shared ownership to the owners of the building by the developer, after the construction of the multi-apartment building and the sale of the apartments, is not regulated;
- During the period from the beginning of the construction of the multi-apartment building to the formation of the management body, the property constituting common shared ownership is often separated and alienated by the developer at discretion, as a result of which the engineering infrastructures, mechanical, electrical, sanitary-technical and other equipment, intended for full and unified maintenance of the building, appear in a territory owned by other persons and their exploitation becomes impossible.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

For the purpose of regulating the enumerated issues, make relevant amendments and supplements to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building".

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Regulating the following issues in the field of management of multi-apartment building:

- separating the competences of authorised state administration body, territorial administration bodies and local self-government bodies;
- defining the scope of documents being transferred to the management body of the building by the developer after the construction of the multi-apartment building;
- transferring the property constituting common shared ownership to the owners of the building by the developer, after the construction of the multi-apartment building and the sale of the apartments;

- defining the peculiarities and restrictions of possession of the property constituting common shared ownership (in particular — areas of installation of engineering infrastructures, mechanical, electrical, sanitary-technical and other equipment intended for full and unified maintenance of the building) during the period from the beginning of the construction of the multi-apartment building to the formation of the management body.

13.3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the conditions, peculiarities of, procedure for the implementation of state target programmes in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building and defining the extent and the method of participation in the funding of those programmes by the state, as well as by the owners of the buildings-constructions" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of part 2 of Article 6 of the Law No HO-297-N of 1 July 2021 "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building", provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 2 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is defining the conditions, peculiarities of, procedure for the implementation of state target programmes in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building and defining the extent and the method of participation in the funding of those programmes by the state, as well as by the owners of the buildings-constructions.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

By Law No HO-297-N of 1 July 2021 "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" amendments have been made to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building", in particular, also to Article 31 of the Law, which prescribes the main directions of state or community support in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building.

It has been prescribed by point 31 of the mentioned Article, that the conditions, peculiarities of, procedure for the implementation of state target programmes in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building and the extent and method of participation in the funding of those programmes by the state, as well as by the owners of the buildings-constructions will be defined by the Government.

According to the same legislative amendment, the Government is ought to ensure the adoption of the mentioned Decision of the Government by 1 July 2022.

Upon Decision of the Prime Minister No 853-A of 13 August 2021, the 3rd ten-day period of May 2022 was defined as the time period for submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the conditions, peculiarities of, procedure for the implementation of state target programmes in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building and defining the extent and the method of participation in the funding of those programmes by the state, as well as by the owners of the buildings-constructions" to the Office of the Prime Minister.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Adopting the Decision of the Government "On defining the conditions, peculiarities of, procedure for the implementation of state target programmes in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building and defining the extent and the method of participation in the funding of those programmes by the state, as well as by the owners of the buildings-constructions" deriving from Law No HO-297-N of 1 July 2021 "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building".

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Clarifying the participation of the state in the field of management and maintenance of a multi-apartment building.

13.4. Submitting a draft Law "On making supplements to the Code of the Republic of Armenia "On administrative offences" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 2 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is providing administrative liability for failure to make the mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" in a non-cash manner.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Laws "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On management of a multi-apartment building" and "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On condominium" were adopted at the sitting of the National Assembly hold on 24 January 2020, according where to mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building must be made in a non-cash manner, separately for each multi-apartment building, through transferring it to a bank account opened for that purpose in the name of the management body of the multi-apartment building, and the procedure for maintaining the bank account has been defined by Decision of the Government No 2078-N of 17 December 2020.

As a result of summarising the outcomes of the first half of 2021, for the purpose of making payment in a non-cash manner, about 60% of multi-apartment buildings (mainly on the account of the City of Yerevan) opened bank accounts. As for the other buildings, the progress is very slow, especially with regard to multi-apartment buildings in marz settlements.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Providing administrative liability for failure to make the mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" in a non-cash manner.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Making the mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" in a non-cash manner and increasing the transparency of financial flows.

13.5. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On making supplements to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 2078-N of 7 December 2020" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 2 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective is facilitating the process of making the mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" in a non-cash manner.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Laws "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On management of a multi-apartment building" and "On making amendments and supplements to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On condominium" were adopted at the sitting of the National Assembly hold on 24 January 2020, according where to mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building must be made in a non-cash manner, separately for each multi-apartment building, through transferring it to a bank account opened for that purpose in the name of the management body of the multi-apartment building, and the procedure for maintaining the bank account has been defined by Decision of the Government No 2078-N of 17 December 2020.

However, the issue of necessity to detail the term "in a non-cash manner" in the mentioned procedure was arisen by several Condominiums and banks, as in some cases banks interpret depositing money into a bank account as a cash transaction.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The draft Law "On non-cash transactions" was approved by Decision of the Government No 1609-A of 21 September 2021, where non-cash transactions (payments) are defined to be the payments which are directed to the bank account of the beneficiary (payee).

Detailing of the term "in a non-cash manner" is envisaged in Decision of the Government No 2078-N of 17 December 2020, according to the formulation

	<p>mentioned above.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Facilitating the process of making mandatory and other payments prescribed by the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" in a non-cash manner.</p>
14.	<p style="text-align: center;">SWITCHING TO SPECIALISED MANAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF MANAGEMENT OF A MULTI-APARTMENT BUILDING</p> <p><u>14.1. Submitting the draft Law "On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On management of a multi-apartment building" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-points 1 and 2 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the Action is considering the management of a multi-apartment building as a type of specialised activity, for which it is necessary to create legal legislative grounds.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>After 1991, as a result of reforms implemented in housing sector, a new institutional environment was formed with private property prevailing: 99% of apartments of multi-apartment buildings are now privately property.</p> <p>Reforms implemented in the sector of housing industry gave rise to the need to re-organise the institutional system for the management of the housing fund. As a result, establishment of management bodies — in particular, condominiums — by the owners of the buildings-constructions was selected to be the most effective form of management of a multi-apartment building. The problem of the latter is collecting funds of the owners of buildings and directing them to ensuring the maintenance and safe exploitation of the common shared property of the given building within the framework of prescribed mandatory norms.</p> <p>However, this function is mainly performed improperly, in which the predominant reason is the lack of professional knowledge, skills and abilities of the persons performing the functions of managing the multi-apartment buildings, which significantly limits the opportunities for progress.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Considering the management of a multi-apartment building as a type of specialised activity by legislation; Establishing a norm authorising the Government</p>

in terms of defining the requirements for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Creating legislative grounds necessary for specialised management of a multi-apartment building.

14.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the requirements for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-points 1 and 2 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is defining the requirements for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

After 1991, as a result of reforms implemented in housing sector, a new institutional environment was formed with private property prevailing: 99% of apartments of multi-apartment buildings are now privately property.

Reforms implemented in the sector of housing industry gave rise to the need to re-organise the institutional system for the management of the housing fund. As a result, establishment of management bodies — in particular, condominiums — by the owners of the buildings-constructions was selected to be the most effective form of management of a multi-apartment building. The problem of the latter is collecting funds of the owners of buildings and directing them to ensuring the maintenance and safe exploitation of the common shared property of the given building within the framework of prescribed mandatory norms.

However, this function is mainly performed improperly, in which the predominant reason is the lack of professional knowledge, skills and abilities of the persons performing the functions of managing the multi-apartment buildings, which significantly limits the opportunities for progress.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Define the requirements for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings after creating legislative grounds necessary for specialised management of a multi-apartment building.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Requirements defined for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

14.3. Compiling questionnaires of training courses based on the requirements defined for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of point 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as from sub-point 8 of point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is elaborating educational, training courses based on the requirements defined for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

After 1991, as a result of reforms implemented in housing sector, a new institutional environment was formed with private property prevailing: 99% of apartments of multi-apartment buildings are now privately property.

Reforms implemented in the sector of housing industry gave rise to the need to re-organise the institutional system for the management of the housing fund. As a result, establishment of management bodies — in particular, condominiums — by the owners of the buildings-constructions was selected to be the most effective form of management of a multi-apartment building. The problem of the latter is collecting funds of the owners of buildings and directing them to ensuring the maintenance and safe exploitation of the common shared property of the given building within the framework of prescribed mandatory norms.

However, this function is mainly performed improperly, in which the predominant reason is the lack of professional knowledge, skills and abilities of the persons performing the functions of managing the multi-apartment buildings, which significantly limits the opportunities for progress.

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1737-N of 12 October 2023 defined the requirements submitted for professional qualification of persons performing the functions for management of multi-apartment buildings, on the basis of those requirements, the procedure for training people and involving them in the management of multi-apartment buildings.

The Decision established that the training courses must start from 1 July 2025, those courses must be organised by the higher educational institutions and organisations vested with the competence to implement the additional educational programme in accordance with the Law "On education", and until then, the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia must, through the relevant committee, ensure the elaboration of questionnaires for those courses.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

After defining the requirements for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings, elaborating questionnaires for the educational, training courses based on the requirements defined for professional qualification for those persons.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Questionnaires elaborated for defining and verifying the scope of knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for those persons, based on the requirement defined for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

14.4. Organising training courses based on the requirements for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of point 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", Chapter 9 of Annex No 1 to Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as from sub-point 8 of point 1 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is organising training courses based on the requirements defined for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

After 1991, as a result of reforms implemented in housing sector, a new institutional environment was formed with private property prevailing: 99% of apartments of multi-apartment buildings are now privately property.

Reforms implemented in the sector of housing industry gave rise to the need to re-organise the institutional system for the management of the housing fund. As a result, establishment of management bodies — in particular, condominiums — by the owners of the buildings-constructions was selected to be the most effective form of management of a multi-apartment building. The problem of the latter is collecting funds of the owners of buildings and directing them to ensuring the maintenance and safe exploitation of the common shared property of the given building within the framework of prescribed mandatory norms.

However, this function is mainly performed improperly, in which the predominant reason is the lack of professional knowledge, skills and abilities of the persons performing the functions of managing the multi-apartment buildings, which significantly limits the opportunities for progress.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

The objective of the implementation of the Action is organising elaborated training courses based on the requirements defined for the professional qualification of persons performing functions of management of multi-apartment buildings.

	<p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Preparing specialised managers in the field of management of a multi-apartment building.</p>
15.	<p>REGULATING THE KEY PROBLEM OF THE HOUSING FUND IN POOR TECHNICAL CONDITION (WITH DAMAGE DEGREE 3 AND 4)</p> <p><u>15.1. Submitting the draft Law "On making a supplement to the Law "On urban development"" to the Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-points 2 and 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the implementation of the Action is defining and distributing the "roles" in the issue of regulating the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>After reviewing functions of bodies of the state administration system and introducing programme budgeting deriving from the structural changes of the Government in recent years, it is unclear which state administration bodies are responsible for the regulation of the problem. In particular, in case of considering the problem in social aspect, it is transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, while considering it as a problem concerning the territorial administration or development — to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, in case of considering it as danger to human life, health and property — to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and in case of maintenance, exploitation of the housing fund, the problem will be considered to be in the domain of the Urban Development Committee, etc.</p> <p>As a result, the regulation of the problem is far from being sufficient; both for the international and local institutions, and for the citizens, the actors and their responsibilities in the regulation of the problem are unclear.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>With regard to regulation of key problems of the crumbling housing fund subject to strengthening-reconstruction and subject to demolition, to separate the roles of the authorised body, local self-government, territorial administration and the state administration bodies.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p>

Authorising norms for the Government in matters concerning the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition.

15.2. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On establishing an information system on the technical condition of the housing fund" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is creating legal grounds for forming an information system on the technical condition of the housing fund.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the data collected from the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and from the Municipality of the City of Yerevan, in accordance with the opinions available by the results of the survey of technical condition of multi-apartment buildings, there are more than 600 multi-apartment buildings in poor technical condition (with damage degree 3 and 4) in the Republic. That is, according to the available data, 3.2% of about 19000 multi-apartment buildings in the Republic are in poor technical condition. The main volumes are in the City of Yerevan — 120 multi-apartment buildings, Lori and Shirak Marzes have 149 and 123 multi-apartment buildings, respectively. There are more than 1200 crumbling private residential houses subject to demolition — with damage degree 4 (about 1000 of which have become crumbling in the result of natural disasters).

However, the digital data are based on the results of survey of technical condition performed in 2003-2006, on the surveys conducted in recent years and do not have sufficient accuracy. While having no complete and actual information on the housing fund (in particular, about the technical condition of the housing fund) problems arise both for elaborating and introducing procedures for the regulation of key problems, and for considering that regulation within the framework of investment programmes. The lack of an information system of multi-apartment buildings has a negative impact on the processes of elaborating and implementing the most effective policy aimed at the regulation of problems.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Enshrining legal grounds for establishing an information system on the technical condition of the housing fund, necessary for making decisions with regard to the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Establishing an information system based on the opinions provided in the result of survey of technical condition of the housing fund, with the possibility of

extracting data on the buildings that are in the worst condition at the moment.

15.3. Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the state policy of regulating the key problems of the housing fund subject to strengthening-reconstruction (with damage degree 3)" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is creating legal grounds based on the international experience for the implementation of programmes aimed at strengthening-reconstruction of the housing fund, defining the approaches and priorities.

1.1 Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In the post-Soviet years, no large-scale co-ordinated activities were carried out to ensure the safe exploitation of the housing fund (the solution of the problems was more of situational nature). Neither the owners of multi-apartment buildings carried out the activities of maintenance of buildings with the required volume and quality. As a result, the depreciation of the housing fund has essentially increased.

The solution of the problem was of point-based and situational nature. In particular, within the framework of a number of programmes implemented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, residents of about 1300 apartments of 36 multi-apartment buildings and residents of about 2700 private residential houses were resettled at the expense of about AMD 23.0 billion prescribed by the state and community budgets.

Failure to implement co-ordinated and continuous actions aimed at ensuring the safety of the residents — strengthening-recovering the housing fund, lack of cases of state support, enshrining a unified principle of priorities, approaches continues to be a problem.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Define the state policy of regulating key problems of the housing fund subject to strengthening-reconstruction:

- define cases of state support, priorities, approaches;
- clarify financial ratings, funding sources;
- consider the state- and community-owned property — land parcels and semi-constructed multi-apartment buildings — as state or community participation in solving of the problem;

- limit further trade of insufficient housing fund, as well as passport record-registrations of the citizens therein;
- fix the mandatory financial participation of the owners (residents) in any improvement programme;
- implement investment programmes of site-development of new urban development complexes in communities, districts having accumulation of housing fund in poor technical condition, by creating preconditions for making those programmes attractive for the private investors.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Creating legal grounds based on the international experience for the implementation of programmes aimed at strengthening-reconstruction of the housing fund — defining the approaches and priorities.

15.4 Submitting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the state policy of regulating the key problems of the crumbling housing fund subject to demolition (with damage degree 4)" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for (objective of) the implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and point 31.16.2 of Target 16 of Annex No 2 of Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is creating legal grounds based on the international experience for the implementation of programmes aimed at resettlement of residents of the crumbling housing fund subject to demolition, defining the approaches and priorities.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

In the post-Soviet years, no large-scale co-ordinated activities were carried out to ensure the safe exploitation of the housing fund (the solution of the problems was more of situational nature). Neither the owners of multi-apartment buildings carried out the activities of maintenance of buildings with the required volume and quality. As a result, the depreciation of the housing fund has essentially increased.

The solution of the problem was of point-based and situational nature. In particular, within the framework of a number of programmes implemented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, residents of about 1300 apartments of 36 multi-apartment buildings and residents of about 2700 private residential houses were resettled at the expense of about AMD 23.0 billion prescribed by the state and community budgets.

Failure to implement co-ordinated and continuous actions aimed at ensuring the safety of the residents — strengthening-recovering or demolishing the housing fund and resettling the residents, lack of cases of state support, enshrining a unified principle of priorities, approaches continues to be a problem.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Define the state policy of regulating key problems of the crumbling housing fund subject to demolition:

- define cases of state support, priorities, approaches;
- clarify financial ratings, funding sources;
- consider the state- and community-owned property — land parcels and semi-constructed multi-apartment buildings — as state or community participation in solving of the problem;
- limit further trade of insufficient housing fund, as well as passport record-registrations of the citizens therein;
- fix the mandatory financial participation of the owners (residents) in any improvement programme;
- set a condition for the residents of the buildings subject to demolition — regarding the obligatory dismantling of the multi-apartment building or a private house, and in some cases (for example, in case of landslide zones) regarding the change of purpose of the given land parcel in case of improvement of the housing conditions of the citizens;
- implement investment programmes of site-development of new urban development complexes in communities, districts having accumulation of housing fund in poor technical condition, by creating preconditions for making those programmes attractive for the private investors.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action

Creating legal grounds based on the international experience for the implementation of programmes aimed at resettlement of residents of the crumbling housing fund subject to demolition, defining the approaches and priorities.

15.5. Adopting the draft Decision of the Government "On defining the procedure temporary resettlement of citizens from the housing fund in case of strengthening and reconstruction or demolition of the that fund"

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is defining the procedure for resettlement of citizens from the crumbling housing fund subject to strengthening-reconstruction and demolition.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

Resettlement of citizens from the crumbling housing fund subject to strengthening-reconstruction and demolition is mainly implemented by the community within the framework of financial capabilities available. Moreover, generally a non-uniform approach is demonstrated with regard to the resettlement of citizens.

The existing problem is mainly regulated by providing financial support to citizens for renting an apartment.

The "Concept Paper on the resettlement of residents from crumbling residential buildings" was approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 130 of 5 March 1999, the time-frame for the operation whereof was prescribed up to the improvement of the housing legislation of the Republic of Armenia, formulation of responsibilities of providing an apartment by the state in the manner prescribed — introduction of relevant certificates, final establishment of insurance system in the Republic and the undertaking the activities fully.

The available legal framework is not enough for solving the issues concerning the resettlement of citizens according to the co-ordinated and unified approaches.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Defining the procedure for and conditions of resettlement of citizens from the housing fund assessed as insufficient and dangerous for residing, through obligatory demolition of re-settled buildings, exclusion of secondary circulation of the housing fund.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Stipulating a procedure for temporary resettlement of citizens during the period of strengthening-reconstructing the housing fund in poor technical condition or for permanent resettlement of citizens in case of demolition of the crumbling buildings.

15.6. Adopting the Draft Decision of the Government "On making amendments to Decision of the Government No 274-N of 19 March 2015" to the Office of the Prime Minister

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is prescribing procedures for conducting surveys on the technical condition of the housing fund and for

managing opinions provided in the result of the survey.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

According to the data collected from the marzes of the Republic of Armenia and from the Municipality of the City of Yerevan, in accordance with the opinions available by the results of the survey of technical condition of multi-apartment buildings, there are more than 600 multi-apartment buildings in poor technical condition (with damage degree 3 and 4) in the Republic. That is, according to the available data, 3.2% of about 19000 multi-apartment buildings in the Republic are in poor technical condition. The main volumes are in the City of Yerevan — 120 multi-apartment buildings, Lori and Shirak Marzes have 149 and 123 multi-apartment buildings, respectively. There are more than 1200 crumbling private residential houses subject to demolition — with damage degree 4 (about 1000 of which have become crumbling in the result of natural disasters).

However, the digital data are based on the results of survey of technical condition performed in 2003-2006, on the surveys conducted in recent years and do not have sufficient accuracy. While having no complete and actual information on the housing fund (in particular, about the technical condition of the housing fund) problems arise both for elaborating and introducing procedures for the regulation of key problems, and for considering that regulation within the framework of investment programmes. The lack of an information system of multi-apartment buildings has a negative impact on the processes of elaborating and implementing the most effective policy aimed at the regulation of problems.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Making amendments to Decision of the Government No 274-N of 19 March 2015, creating legal grounds for conducting surveys on the technical condition of buildings and constructions and for managing opinions provided in the result of the survey.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Prescribing procedures for conducting surveys on the technical condition of buildings and constructions and for managing opinions provided in the result of the survey.

15.7. Implementing programmes aimed at solving the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021 and the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 3 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is lunching the process of solving the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition

	<p>according to the principles, approaches and priorities established by the Government and solving the problem of at least 70 percent of multi-apartment buildings that were crumbling (with damage degree 4) as of 2021 in the Republic during 2024-2026.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>The Concept Paper on the regulation of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition and the action plan deriving therefrom were approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 376-L of 18 March 2021.</p> <p>The main objective of the Concept Paper is creating legal grounds during 2021-2023 for regulating the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition through the elaboration of legal acts included in the action plan deriving from the Concept Paper, proposing solutions for the regulation of the key problem, clarifying the main approaches of the state policy and ensuring the effectiveness, addressability and priorities of those approaches.</p> <p>One of the key provisions of the Concept Paper is that the elaborated state policy should contribute to the participatory process of the owners, encourage the possibility to consider the regulation of the key issue as much as possible within the framework of site development investment programmes, through the investments in the implementation of such programmes and creation of a favourable business environment.</p> <p>After the creation of the above-mentioned legal grounds it is planned to launch the implementation of programmes aimed at solving of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Implementing programmes aimed at stage-by-stage solving of the key problem of the housing fund in poor technical condition according to the principles, approaches and priorities established by the Government — the first stage presumes launching of the process of solving the problem of at least 70 percent of multi-apartment buildings that were crumbling (with damage degree 4) as of 2021 in the Republic by 2026</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Improving the housing conditions of the residents of the housing fund in poor technical condition, continuously implementing activities of strengthening and recovery with regard to multi-apartment buildings subject to demolition and recovery, that are dangerous for residing from the point of view of urban development.</p>
16	<p>ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION TO PROMOTE THE COMMITMENT OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT STIPULATED BY THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>16.1. Submitting the draft law “On Renovation” to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of point 3 of Article 86 of the Constitution, points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as sub-point 4 of point 8 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban</p>

development” of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the implementation of the Action is to create legal prerequisites for ensuring the continuity of housing construction and modernising the existing housing fund for the purpose of promoting the commitment of housing construction of the Government as outlined in the Constitution.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

- According to statistical data, the residential space per capita indicator in our country is 38.8 square meters. In the case of surface-level observation it may be concluded that the level of housing provision in Armenia is quite high and significantly exceeds that of many more developed countries.

However, it is well known that there is a high level of housing demand in our country. This indicator does not reflect the true situation, as it is derived from averaging polarized housing provision figures.

According to the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, the housing fund in the country presents the following picture:

- multi-apartment housing stock: 19339 apartment buildings,
- Individual housing fund: 427,463 residential buildings, covering 75,247,698 square meters.
- Apartment buildings in the Republic, categorized by year of construction, have the following distribution:
- constructed before 1980: 61%;
- constructed in 1981-1990: 23%;
- constructed in 1991-2000: 10%;
- constructed in 2001: 6%.

It should be noted that, according to current building regulations, buildings are classified by their structural integrity, and the average age of buildings is considered to range from 100 to 150 years.

Comparing this classification with the main indicators characterising the multi-apartment housing fund, it should be stated that more than 60% of the housing fund of the Republic has surpassed half of its expected lifespan.

Additionally, the deterioration of the housing fund's technical condition has been significantly influenced by seismic activity, landslides, rockfalls, soil properties, bombings, and other factors.

Furthermore, the majority of the housing fund in the Republic was constructed before 1990 and after repeated revision and tightening of seismic norms most of the buildings may no longer comply with current regulatory requirements and may be vulnerable from seismic perspective.

Housing construction has been one of the leading sectors of our country's economy in recent years, particularly due to the use of the income tax refund mechanism.

However, this is largely viewed not as an upgrade of the existing housing fund, but as an expansion, since it is insufficiently connected to the issues of the current housing fund, housing needs, settlement development, and other key areas.

	<p>Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, as well as the Government policy of gradual phase-out of the income tax refund mechanism in the regions, it is advisable to consider housing construction and its promotion within the context of gradually renovating the existing housing fund and improving access to infrastructure.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Elaborate and submit to the Government for consideration the draft law 'On Renovation,' which will establish the legal framework for promoting the continuity of housing construction through the renovation of the existing housing stock. The law will also outline mechanisms, funding schemes, and other necessary components for implementing the programs. Elaborate and submit to the Government for consideration the draft law “On renovation”, which will create legal grounds for promoting the continuity of housing construction through renovation of existing housing fund, the mechanisms, funding schemes, etc. for implementation of the programmes will be described.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action</p> <p>Creating legal prerequisites for ensuring the continuity of housing construction and modernising the existing housing fund for the purpose of promoting the commitment of housing construction of the Government as outlined in the Constitution.</p>
17.	<p style="text-align: center;">REGULATING THE KEY ISSUE OF THE NON-MAIN CONSTRUCTIONS PLACED (BUILT) AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE</p> <p><u>17.1. Adopting the Decision of the Government defining the approaches and priorities with regard to further possession of the non-main constructions and the resettlement of families residing therein</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of Article 83 and point 3 of Article 86 of the Constitution, points 3 and 12 of part 3 of Article 10.1 of the Law "On urban development", provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of the Law "On approving the complex programme for recovering the disaster zone", the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, as well as point 9 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled “Urban development” of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.</p> <p>The objective of the Action is creating legal grounds for defining the approaches and priorities with regard to further disposal of the non-main construction and the resettlement of families residing therein.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>There were no complete and reliable data on the non-main constructions placed or built after the earthquake in the settlements of the disaster zone, there was no information on the condition, allocation, purpose of use of the non-main constructions and on the grounds how the families residing in those non-main constructions appeared in the state of shelterless.</p>

By Decision of the Prime Minister No 1658-A of 20 December 2018, a working group (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Group") was established, within the framework of the tasks set before it information was collected on the temporary shelters placed or built in the settlements of the disaster zone after the earthquake, according to the allocation per marzes and communities, their belongness, condition, the number of families residing therein, the reasons how they appeared in those conditions, on the basis of which a package of recommendations on resettlement of families residing in non-main constructions - improvement of housing conditions, vacating the territory from non-main construction, as well as criteria for assessing the condition of each non-engineered house and the status of the family residing therein was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister.

Upon the assignment of the Prime Minister, an action plan aimed at the implementation of the submitted recommendations was developed, which covers the time-period of 2021-2022 and it is planned to create legal grounds for the regulation of the key issue.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Defining the approaches and priorities with regard to further disposal of non-main constructions placed/built in the land parcels of the urban settlements of the disaster zone, owned by state or community and with regard to families residing therein.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Creating legal grounds:

- considering the land parcels owned by the state and the community as a priority for vacating the land parcels of the settlements of the disaster zone from the non-main constructions and for recovering the urban development environment;
- applying a differentiated approach for the resettlement of families residing in non-main constructions, depending the ground based on which the family has a status of a shelterless.

17.2. Launching a programme based on the approaches and priorities defined by the Government with regard to further disposal of the non-main constructions and the resettlement of families residing therein

1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action

The necessity for the implementation of the Action derives from provisions of Article 83 and point 3 of Article 86 of the Constitution, , provisions of Sections 4 and 7 of the Law "On approving the complex programme for recovering the disaster zone", the Strategic programme for the development of the field of urban development approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 531-L of 8 April 2021, point 9 of paragraph 2 of section 2.7 titled "Urban development" of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021.

The objective of the Action is implementing programmes concerning the further disposal of the non-main construction and the resettlement of families residing therein.

1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation

There were no complete and reliable data on the non-main constructions placed or built after the earthquake in the settlements of the disaster zone, there was no information on the condition, allocation, purpose of use of the non-main constructions and on the grounds how the families residing in those non-main constructions appeared in the state of shelterless.

By Decision of the Prime Minister No 1658-A of 20 December 2018, a working group (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Group") was established, within the framework of the tasks set before it information was collected on the temporary shelters placed or built in the settlements of the disaster zone after the earthquake, according to the allocation per marzes and communities, their belongness, condition, the number of families residing therein, the reasons how they appeared in those conditions, on the basis of which a package of recommendations on resettlement of families residing in non-main constructions - improvement of housing conditions, vacating the territory from non-main construction, as well as criteria for assessing the condition of each non-engineered house and the status of the family residing therein was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister.

Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1601-N of 13 October 2022 approved the procedure for freeing the state and community-owned land parcels in the disaster area from non-main buildings installed or built after the earthquake.

The main purpose of the decision is to clear the areas from cottages, settle the issues related to the re-settlement of the families living in them and the demolition of the cottages, which will provide an opportunity to free the settlements of the disaster area from the unsafe, from the point of view of urban planning, facilities that do not meet the urban planning normative requirements, from inappropriate buildings, restoring the urban planning environment of the given areas.

In accordance with the mentioned procedure:

- more organisational works are planned for 2023 (approval of classified lists, notifications, budget process planning, start of works that do not require funding);
- during 2024-2027, freeing and dismantling cottages, a differentiated approach to state support with regard to housing problems of families living in cottages used for residential purposes, depending on the reasons for the status of the given family as a cottage dweller.

1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues

Launching the works provided for by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 1601-N of 13 October 2022, in accordance with approaches and priorities prescribed by the same Decision.

2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the action

Continuously vacating the land parcels of the urban settlements of the disaster zone owed by the state and community from the non-main constructions placed/built there, resettlement of families residing therein.

18.	IMPROVING THE BUILDING CONDITIONS OF OBJECTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE, HEALTHCARE, SPORT, CULTURAL AND PUBLIC SIGNIFICANCE
	<p><u>Actions 18.1-18.11</u></p> <p>1. Necessity for and objective of implementation of the action</p> <p>The implementation of the Action derives from the provisions of the five-year Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved by Decision of the National Assembly No AZhVo-002-N of 26 August 2021 concerning the implementation of activities of building and re-building the administrative and educational-cultural institutions.</p> <p>The objective is implementing state capital construction programmes.</p> <p>1.1. Current situation and existing issues in relations subject to regulation</p> <p>Executing state procurement contracts concluded by the Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia for the needs of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the Supreme Judicial Council.</p> <p>1.2. Solutions recommended for the existing issues</p> <p>Provision of financial resources necessary for proper implementation within the terms prescribed by the state procurement contracts.</p> <p>2. Expected outcome from the implementation of the Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 kindergartens; • 24 schools; • 3 educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education; • 2 sports educational institutions; • 4 healthcare institutions; • 2 multi-apartment buildings; • 4 administrative buildings of the justice sector.

CHIEF OF STAFF
TO THE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

A. HARUTYUNYAN