

F. Sector:

HUMAN RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Summary:

The Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD) has completed phase one (1) project about **feasibility Regional capacity on Intra-trade of pharmaceuticals (RCIP)** during the previous year of 2021. The information about the project completion was reflected in the 15th Project Monitoring Group Meeting (PMG) held on June 14, 2021 at ECO Secretariat circulated vide Note Verbale No. PMG/Report of the 15th Meeting/2021/674 dated June 27, 2021.

The status of the two (2) currently ongoing projects is reflected, as below:

ONGOING PROJECTS:

1. Project Category:	Health
2. Project Code:	HRSD2/H/2020
3. Project Title:	<u>“Regional capacity on Intra-trade of pharmaceuticals (RCIP)”</u>
4. Project Objective(s):	To do a holistic study on prerequisites and conditions in ECO region for promoting intra-trade of medicines between ECO Member States, To outline how trade and transport agreement between Member States could facilitate the medicine and Pharmaceutical trade in our region,

	To propose practical solution for "one application, one assessment, one market authorization" for the whole of ECO region.
5. Project Budget (US\$):	USD 60,000
6. Project Funding Source:	At least 20% from ECO Budget (in-kind), the rest (in-cash) from the partner/s,
7. Coordinating Country/Organization:	ECO Secretariat
8. International/Regional Partner:	IsDB and WHO
9. Duration of Project (Months):	2 year
10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):	2020
11. Project Progress Ratio (%):	Quarterly
12. Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):	2 year
13. <u>Background:</u> <p>Given the ECO commitment to SDGs and as specified in the founding documents of the Organization, uplifting the standards of living, quality of life, economic welfare and wellbeing of people of the region constitute the very aim of regional cooperation in this part of the world.</p> <p>Promotion of regional health and pharmaceutical cooperation can be considered as one of the key objectives of ECO for which the Member States attach high importance. However, pharmaceutical cooperation can't be sustainable unless the member states move toward establishment of ECO Medicines Agency to contribute to facilitation of regional medicine regulatory.</p> <p>Further to decision of 24th COM reflected in its report (paragraph 28) following small sized project phase one (1) about <u>feasibility Regional capacity on Intra-trade of pharmaceuticals (RCIP)</u>" (costs US\$ 8,500)_has been completed on March 3, 2021 .</p> <p>The report of the small sized project was circulated 16 June 2021 No.641 note verbal amongst the Member States for their consideration. Member States have been requested to nominate their relevant representatives for the establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinizing the report and developing a Plan of Action on pharmaceuticals' trade within the region.</p>	
15. <u>Expected Outcomes of the Project:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the current situation of ECO Members in Pharmaceuticals; 	

- Identification of (1) non-trade challenges and barriers (regulatory, marketing, policies and practices) to market expansion; and (2) trade related challenges and obstacles (pricing, localization, tariffs);
- Assessment of existing ECO agreements which can ease or rebate pharmaceutical trade along with new suggestions to facilitate the case;
- The feasibility of establishing an ECO regional Medicines Agency.

16. Current status:

- 1) Small sized project feasibility study RCIP was completed mid-2021 whereupon final report circulated to MS. Member States were requested to provide their nominations for the establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinizing the report and developing a Plan of Action on the trade of pharmaceuticals within the region. Only the Republic of Azerbaijan responded to the request.
- 2) The 33rd RPC decided that **the First meeting of the Task Force on Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals will be held as per the outcome/decision of the 5th HLEG meeting.**
- 3) **In 5 health ministerial in 24 May 2023 turkish delegation propose again more discussion about this project.**
- 4) **The feasibility of establishing an ECO regional Medicines Agency will be next phase.**
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