

MCA-Armenia Program
Stakeholders' Committee Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2009
At 15:00 p.m., MCA-Armenia Office

Minutes N 9

The meeting was attended by the following SC members:

<i>Lilit Asatryan</i>	“Young Women Association of Armenia” NGO
<i>Syuzanna Soghomonyan, Karen Zadoyan’s alternate</i>	“Armenian Young Lawyers’ Association” NGO
<i>Lia Khachatryan</i>	“Integration and Development” NGO
<i>Sasun Hambarzumyan</i>	“Civil Servants’ Association” NGO
<i>Mihran Hovhannisyan</i>	“Eghvard” WUA
<i>Narine Mailyan</i>	“Small and Medium Businesses Foundation” NGO
<i>Karine Movsisyan</i>	“Goris Youth Association” NGO
<i>Shirak Mikayelyan</i>	“Work and Motherland” NGO
<i>Poghos Shahinyan</i>	“National Road Safety Council” NGO
<i>Arman Voskanyan</i>	“Tavush Development” NGO
<i>Andranik Veranyan</i>	“Noyemberyan Communities’ Union” LEU
<i>Aleksandr Ter-Hovakimyan</i>	“Armenian Student-Doctors’ Scientific Association” NGO
<i>Viktor Engibaryan</i>	“European Movement of Armenia” NGO

In the absence of:

<i>Hazarapet Nazaryan</i>	“Eghegnadzor” WUA
<i>Tonakan Ghazaryan</i>	“Shenik” WUA

With the participation of:

<i>Ara Hovsepyan</i>	MCA-Armenia SNCO CEO
<i>Armine Simonyan</i>	Environmental and Social Impact Officer, MCA-Armenia SNCO
<i>Victoria Grigoryan</i>	Assistant to the Stakeholders’ Committee, MCA-Armenia SNCO
<i>Ruzanna Avagyan</i>	‘A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Centre’ NGO
<i>Levon Nersisyan</i>	‘Astghik’ NGO
<i>Movses Sargsyan</i>	Armenian Red Cross Society

Mass media representatives were also present at the meeting.

According to the SC Bylaws, Clause 3.12 (SC meetings shall be chaired by SC members by a principle of rotation, according to the alphabetical order of SC members’ names.) the meeting was chaired by SC member Lilit Asatryan.

The Chairman suggested approving the Agenda submitted in advance. V. Engibaryan suggested limiting the meeting activities till 5:00 p.m. S. Soghomonyan suggested forming a Committee on Ethics. Taking into consideration the above mentioned suggestions, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

N	Start	Item of the Agenda	Speaker/ Responsible
1.	15:00	Information on Progress of MCA-Armenia Program	Ara Hovsepyan, MCA-Armenia SNCO CEO
2.	15:30	Study of applications, submitted for the position of Environmental Observer, Interview	Armine Simonyan, Environmental and Social Impact Officer, MCA-Armenia SNCO SC members
3.	16:00	Prioritizing SC activities, The role of the SC member and his possible contribution to MCA-Armenia Program	
4.	16:30	Other Issues a) Information on the activities by individual SC members b) Project on Improvement of MCC Performance Evaluation Indicators, presented by SC member K. Zadoyan c) Establishing a Committee on Ethics	

First item of the Agenda

MCA-Armenia SNCO CEO A. Hovsepyan spoke on the first item of the Agenda. He stated that at the end of December MCA-Armenia received the first quarterly disbursement request, that is mainly directed towards the ‘Irrigated Infrastructures’ Project. The first civil works in the direction of this component have already started, in particular, within the scope of the contract, signed with “SADE” (France) and “ԵՄԵ-23” (Armenia) consortium, the activities of main canals rehabilitation have started; signing of new contracts is envisaged. A. Hovsepyan also stated that New Guidelines on Credit Component Implementation will be presented at the upcoming GC meeting, together with mechanisms of program efficiency improvement, and so on.

SC member A. Veranyan asked whether MCC has any concerns regarding further implementation of the program, citing various information that regularly appears in the press. A. Veranyan expressed the opinion that, in case it does, the SC should have its input in the corresponding discussions, or, at least, express its position.

A.Hovsepyan highly appreciated the willingness of the SC members to take part in discussions concerning MCA-Armenia Program further implementation. As an example to illustrate it, A. Hovsepyan stated the Evaluation Indicators Improvement Project, recently submitted by SC member K. Zadoyan. The project was developed by the Ministry of Economy and is still in its draft stage. As to the issue of further implementation of the program, it will be decided at the MCC Board Meeting in March. Meanwhile, the current activities of MCA proceed in their natural course.

SC member M. Hovhannisyanyan stated that the current rehabilitation works on Arzni-Shamiram main canal progress in their due course, with the application of high-quality mechanisms. M. Hovhannisyanyan asked how the bids for the tertiary canals rehabilitation are to be administered and selected. MCA-Armenia SNCO CEO A. Hovsepyan stated that, on the basis of all the submitted

applications, MCA-Armenia will develop designs, determine their efficiency and select the most justified options.

The question and concern, raised by invitee L. Nersisyan referred to the provision of the Law-stipulated necessary conditions and transportability opportunities for the disabled during the roads rehabilitation works, the construction of the appropriate stops, etc. After all the issues were settled, L. Asatryan suggested taking note of the information, presented by MCA-Armenia SNCO CEO. The suggestion was approved unanimously.

Second Item of the Agenda

The floor was given to MCA-Armenia Environmental and Social Impact Officer A. Simonyan to present the submitted applications for the position of the GC Environmental Observer. She stated that in total seven applications were submitted to MCA-Armenia Office, two of which didn't meet the presented requirements. Two applicants ("Sustainable Water Environment" NGO and "For Sustainable Human Development" NGO) have already been presented to the SC, and the three remaining candidates were invited to the SC meeting. President of "Wild Nature and Cultural Values Protection" NGO R. Khachatryan couldn't take part in the meeting due to his absence from the city. The SC members directed their questions to the applicants, present at the meeting -Levon Janoyan, "Hakobyan Environmental Centre of American University of Armenia" Fund representative, and Hovhannes Martirosyan, member of "Youth Parliament" NGO. The questions particularly concerned their vision of the role of the Environmental Observer in the Governing Council, professional experience, mission of the organization they represent, etc. In connection with the selection of the GC Environmental Observer, there was a suggestion to wait and hear the President of "Wild Nature and Cultural Values Protection" NGO R. Khachatryan, who was unable to participate in the SC meeting due to his absence from the city. The suggestion was put to voting and approved by 9 votes pro, 1 vote cons and 2 votes abstain.

Thus, the SC members decided to hear R. Khachatryan, a candidate for the position of the GC Environmental Observer in the nearest future, following which to hold the voting.

Third item of the Agenda

SC member A. Veranyan submitted the schedule of the SC upcoming activities for February-March to the SC members' judgment. A. Veranyan stated that the schedule is open for new suggestions and initiatives. As a separate suggestion A. Veranyan stated the possibilities of discussion and negotiations with MCC, especially in view of current discussions concerning the MCA-Armenia Program further implementation, the Georgian precedent, other issues the Civil Society is concerned about, etc. There were new ideas and suggestions concerning A. Veranyan's suggestion, in particular, SC member S. Hambarzumyan suggested organizing a teleconference with the participation of SC members and the American part.

SC member A. Ter-Hovakimyan raised the issue that the objectives and subjects for discussion of such a meeting should be clarified, while V. Engibaryan suggested collaborating with a number of lobbyist organizations.

A.Hovsepyan welcomed the suggestions, presented by the SC members and suggested at first focusing on meetings with the US Ambassador and MCC Resident Missio.

Summing up all the suggestions, the Chairman suggested that MCA-Armenia SNCO CEO should negotiate with the American representatives on the possible meeting with the SC members to be

held before MCC meeting on March 11. In connection with the upcoming SC activities, the Chairman of the meeting suggested presenting new suggestions by the next SC meeting and approving the schedule of most integral activities.

The SC members agreed on the above mentioned suggestion.

Fourth Item of the Agenda

K. Zadoyan's alternate S. Soghomonyan spoke on the Project of Improvement of MCC Performance Evaluation Indicators. She stated that K. Zadoyan had participated in the discussion initiated by 'Eurasia Partnership Foundation', which was organized in connection with the above mentioned project. S. Soghomonyan expressed the opinion that the accomplishment of any part of the project will contribute to strengthening Democracy in Armenia. A. Hovsepian also expressed his opinion concerning the Project. He stated that it is quite a serious document that may serve as basis for the improvement of Armenia's performance indicators.

SC member A. Ter-Hovakimyan suggested that SC members should thoroughly study the document within 10-15 days, following which they should hold a joint discussion and come up with a common position.

A.Hovsepian suggested outlining the above mentioned program as one of the subjects for the possible meeting with US Ambassador and MCC resident representatives, as well as organizing a separate meeting with the authors of the project, on behalf of the Ministry of Economy. The SC members expressed their unanimous agreement on the above mentioned suggestion.

It was decided to delay the discussion of S. Soghomonyan's suggestion on forming a Committee on Ethics.

The meeting was closed at 17:05.

Meeting Chairman - L. Asatryan

Minutes taken by SC Assistant V. Grigoryan
January 30, 2009