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New Guarantees for Social Housing in Armenia

Today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the premises of the UN Office in Armenia that will provide new opportunities to develop social housing in Armenia.

The MoU was signed by the Chairman of the Trustee Council of the National Social Housing Association (ASBA), Secretary of the RoA National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia Dafina Gercheva and the representative of the “Dutch International Guarantees for Housing” Foundation Mark van Wees.

The memorandum includes a wide area of social housing development, including the formation of a favorable legal framework, financial assistance, and capacity development of local self-governing bodies and relevant organizations. Within the framework of the agreement, resource mobilization is anticipated for implementation of investment projects for social affordable housing in the towns of Dilijan, Hrazdan, Vedi, Ashtarak, Yerevan, Aparan, Spitak and Gavar.

Chairman of the Board of ASBA, National Social Housing Association of Armenia, Arthur Baghdasaryan, noting the progress in social housing program and attaching importance to the signing of the memorandum, said, “The successfully launched project should be firmly pushed forward, and I think that the successful cooperation of local and international organizations, which will also be boosted by this memorandum, will provide more visible outcomes in the near future. I attach high importance to the multilateral cooperation within the framework of this program. I welcome the participation of international organizations, such as the UN and the “Dutch International Guarantees for Housing” Foundation. The latter’s vast experience in this sphere inspires confidence for more effective implementation of the project. We believe that this project will promote the alleviation of housing problems in a number of regions in Armenia.”

In her remarks UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia Dafina Gercheva noted, “UNDP provides targeted, rapid and flexible response to development challenges in Armenia, which are of complex nature, hence require comprehensive, collaborative and partnership approaches. UNDP is honored and delighted to partner with the National Social Housing Association and Dutch International Guarantee Housing towards supporting the most vulnerable layers of society through provision of social housing. This is one of the priority areas of UNDP’s program in Armenia.”

Mark van Wees, representative of “Dutch International Guarantees for Housing” Foundation said, “Our organization is delighted to share its experience and opportunities with this new cooperation initiative. DIGH will support the development of social housing in Armenia through provision of technical support, loans and guarantees for the implementation of the ASBA investment projects.”

National Social Housing Association is a non-profit organization, which aims to provide low and middle-income families in Armenia with affordable and quality housing and its services. The Trustee Council of the NSHA includes Armenian and Dutch experts.

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners. UNDP in Armenia was established in 1993 and supports the Government of Armenia to reach its own development priorities and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

“Dutch International Guarantees for Housing” Foundation promotes the solution of housing problems for low-income families in developing and transition countries, providing long-term loans on preferential conditions for the implementation of investment projects in social housing sector.